

[著] 丈月城

Illust. BUNBUN

Campioness of Sanctuary

# 神域のキャンピオーネス

黙示録の時

volume

J O E T A K E D U K I & B U N B U N

5



# Illustrations



Campioness of Sanctuary

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JOE TAKEDUKI & BUNBUN

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突然と空を見あげる。  
環境色と無彩色が入りまじり、  
雲は朝日を浴びたかのように黄金に輝いていた。  
まさしく夜明けの空である。

「黄泉より死人を呼びかえす秘儀『反魂』。  
安倍晴明にできて鳥羽梨於奈に  
できないはずはありません——」

「もどつてきなさい。  
六波羅連——！」



「僕らがここまでできると、  
わかっていたような言い方だね？」

「当然だ。いくさ場に満ちる気が  
そう告げていた。」

——天連は敵方にあり。心せよ。

……その兆しを視た以上、

肅々と耐えるのも将たる者の務め」

生きる者全てを滅する  
最凶の神・アテナ——。  
地球の存亡を懸け、  
命を賭した決戦が始まる！！



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# **Chapter 1 – Countdown to Zero**

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## Part 1

It was a world with ocean of ultramarine color that was stretching to everywhere.

Small islands were floating sporadically on that blue canvas like an accent.

The mythological world of sea and island Hyperborea. Toba Riona was traveling the domain of mythology that was also named as the Hero World together with Rokuhara Ren and other comrades.

「We're back! Look, Cassandra!」

Ren pointed from the deck of the sailboat that was sailing on the sea nimbly.

There was a small island ahead. The greenery of the trees grew luxuriantly on the dense mountain was remarkably beautiful for the eyes that were used with the scenery of only sea.

It was the residence of the great woman who presented Ren and others with the magically powered boat they boarded.

The owner of the ship that would move in autopilot just by imagining the destination. Naturally Ren didn't forget her name.

「That's the island of Byakuren Ou—Luo Hao-oneesan who is also the boss of the pirate group!」

「She is the person who became Riona-sama's master isn't she? I'm really excited!」

Cassandra said with a heartfelt smile.



「A great master who even a prodigy like Riona-sama cannot go against—to think such person exist in this world! I wonder what kind of person she is.」

「Should I say that you will understand if you meet her, or should I say that actually I don't want to meet her if possible.....」

Riona muttered with a subdued tone.

In contrast with Ren and Cassandra who were in high spirits, she was sitting down while hugging her knees with heavy gloomy air. Her face looked really depressed.

「Common sense isn't working at all against that honorable master, so it's tiring to keep her company.....」

「But you know, Riona. You have been away from Luo Hao-oneesan for these few days right? Weren't you able to relax during that time?」

Ren pointed out. The space distortion that they used to come and go between earth and mythological world Hyperborea. The gate that they passed through when they came here had become unusable now.

Ren and others traveled in order to search for a new route.

They arrived at the island of the goddess, Maiden of Water who was the wife of the war god Warrior of Flame.

The mysterious goddess made a request to them. Then Ren encountered a 『senior godslayer』, confronted him, and then they formed a brief team up—

「You also argued against that Kusanagi-senpai with a good vibe.」

「Frankly speaking, that's because even though they're both godslayer but their 『intensity』 is in different level. Both Rokuhara-san and Kusanagi-san is like the weakest of the four heavenly kings in front of the honorable master.....」



「Hahahaha」

Ren laughed lightly even toward that impolite sentence.

In fact it was just as she said, so he had nothing to argue back with at all. On the other hand, Riona who was sitting with dark gaze while hugging her knees finally let out a heavy sigh and stood up.

「Well, but, I have to steel myself soon.」

She walked to the boat's prow with firm steps and glared at her master's island fiercely.

Riona raised up her fist powerfully and yelled heroically.

「Do your best, me! I absolutely won't yield against the tyrannical power harassment!」

「What reliable words-. I will cheer you on Riona-sama!」

Cassandra sent her support from behind.

And then, a small goddess popped out on the shoulder of Riona who was burning with fighting spirit.

「This bird girl is pointlessly getting fired up huh..... Won't it be better to do it in moderation?」

The size that was only around 30 centimeter like a doll.

She was Stella, or the goddess of beauty and love Aphrodite. She smirked and laughed cruelly on the shoulder of the genius onmyouji with queenly disposition.

「From how you're lower ranked than that rude woman, you too are quite alike you know?」

「Shut up, Stella!」

Furthermore——

At this time Riona and Stella were staring ahead to where the ship was advancing to. Their backs were turned toward Ren and Cassandra. Ren glanced at Cassandra beside him.

The beautiful princess of Troy returned a happy smile to him.

Love toward Rokuhara Ren that couldn't be concealed was oozing out from Cassandra's eyes.

That reserved appeal was really lovely. Ren quickly kissed her. It was a kiss where their lips only touched lightly, a mischief that was done stealthily from the surrounding.

When their lips separated, Cassandra smiled even more happily toward him.

They were unable to really take time for just the two of them in the middle of this journey.

But, he did this kind of skinship with Cassandra sometimes and the two of them ascertained their feeling toward each other like that.

『This is a secret from everyone okay?』

『Yes♪』

Their feeling went through to each other just from eye contact. They didn't even need to whisper with small voice.

Even while they were communicating like that just now, Riona was burning with fighting spirit. She fired up herself, and in the end she even started doing shadow boxing against an 『imaginary honorable master』.

「Shih, shih! For the sake of tomorrowww! Aim slightly at the inside corner with a jab, then land a gouging blow! A gouging blow!」

It seemed she didn't notice the change in relationship between Ren and Cassandra at all.



Although, this kind of thought was also being sent from the tiny goddess whose back was turned toward them like Riona.

(Ren~. Perhaps I should stab you any day now.....)

(Your instinct is really good at this kind of time. As expected from Stella.)

(As expected from Ren too. You aren't trying to deny it at all. Putting aside whether that's a bad or good thing.....)

In any case, Rokuhara Ren had finally returned.

For the sake of collecting Toba Fumika who they left with godslayer Luo Hao, also known as Luo Cuilian. Then they would return home through the space distortion they discovered at the island of the Maiden of Water.

Before long, the 『end of the world』 would start happening at their earth.

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The reincarnation of Yatagarasu, Toba Riona.

To train that one and only outstanding talent, the founder of magical sect, Luo Cuilian assigned her to do waterfall training. Its purpose was to put a burden physically and mentally on her.

「That girl will definitely become a phoenix among humans—although she is still a little chick.」

Luo Cuilian smiled beside a waterfall basin where water splashed without end.





Until several days ago, this was the training place where she was instructing a 21<sup>st</sup> century Japanese onmyouji girl.

「She is also endowed with the intelligence that is fitting for that talent. However, I believe that is something that is a little bit 『too excessive』 for



her.」

「I see. And there you forced that Yatagarus to go through harsh training.」

The one who made that comment was a slender young nobleman.

In contrast with Luo Cuilian who was wearing Han outfit, this man was wearing the attire from ancient Japan.

A round-necked robe worn by members of imperial court with orange color that was like morning sun, a color that was traditionally worn by the crown prince. Black Shinto cap white hakama. This man was wearing clothes that were allowed only for the crown prince of the distant Asuka period and even older period.

Umayado no Ouji. His other name was Shoutoku Taishi.

He had good looks that were fitting for the imperial prince who was famed for his refinement. In addition he was a ghost. However, right now he was sitting on a chair like a living person.

Luo Cuilian was also sitting. They were facing each other with a round table between them.

「Luo Hao-dono's discernment is truly splendid. To be honest, I also harbored a similar impression.」

Uyamado no Ouji covered his mouth with his robe's sleeve while talking.

「The elder sister of my priestess excelled in onmyoudou and learning, but her devotion in other fields than that still leave more to be desired. Of course, for those with meager talent, mastering only their strong point is one possible path. However, with outstanding talent to such degree, it's parental love of a senior to wish to guide her toward the path further ahead.....」

「Fufufufu. The day that Riona will be thankful to me will come one day.」

「Umu. When we return home, I should instruct her even more harshly. After all something like a shortcut to the radiant tomorrow doesn't exist——」

Luo Cuilian and Umayado no Ouji, both of them were fellow great people who could boast themselves as peerless.

Perhaps because of that, they were able to leisurely converse with profound compatibility toward each other. They even emitted the elegance of sage who enjoyed a refined conversation in a hermitage built in the middle of bamboo thicket.

But, there was a voice that was unfitting for the two's atmosphere. This voice had been audible since some time ago.

「Ji, Ji-Ji-Jiga Toku Butsurai, buheh, Shoukyou Shoukotsu Shuu, Muryou Hyakusenman, nn, gehoh, Okusai Asougi——fu, fueeeeeeeeeennn!」

The incarnation of Tamayori Hime who shared the blood of the girl who became these two's topic, Aoba Fumika. The voice was her crying voice.

The waterfall struck her body. She swallowed the water sometimes while desperately reciting a passage of Lotus Sutra.

She was in the middle of endlessly practicing the harsh training that was also assigned to Riona. She was wearing training outfit that her elder sister also wore. The falling water continued to strike her body.

Unable to endure the pain, Fumika pleaded.

「Ta, Taishi-sama! Luo Hao-sensei! I, I think it's still too early for me to go through the same training like Onee-chan! Ca——can I stop alreadyyy!?!」

「That's not good, Fumika.」

Uyamado no Ouji spoke to the miko of Tamayori who brought him along until here.



「Indeed your capability is far too different from your elder sister. Your problem is simply your weak strength of spirit, willpower, and courage that are the foundation stone of everything. In that case, rather than lightheartedly educating you in spell, disciplining that is treating your body and heart harshly, harshly, and harshly to the end is the best——」

Even though he wasn't even her mentor, Uyamado no Ouji spoke to her with a know-it-all air.

「I admire the discerning eyes of Luo Hao-dono who saw through that. Allow yourself to be driven to the corner to the extreme. To say it in the wording of your generation, 『Stop grumbling and muster your guts!』 .」

「Fu, fueeeeeeeennn!」

「As expected from Taishi-dono. So you have already learned the speech of the vulgar common populace.」

Luo Cuilian ignored Fumika's whining and gave her praise in admiration.

In response Uyamado no Ouji displayed his graceful and magnanimous smile.

「Ha, ha, ha, ha. Really, it's embarrassing. Being resurrected in the era of Fumika and others, various things are curious to me. I unintentionally learned many things that aren't appropriate for someone of my status. And then at this chance I stepped into the sanctuary Hyperborea.....」

Uyamado no Ouji looked up to the blue sky spreading above him.

Softly, he spoke with a “face of someone immersed in a world of his own” in a happy mood too.

「Unlike the time when I was alive, right now there isn't any country or court that tied me down. Perhaps it will also be nice to travel this so called Hero World with the accompaniment of the miko of Tamayori alone.」

「I, I'm going too?——Bu, bubah!」

Fumika yelled from the waterfall basin toward Uyamado no Ouji who was muttering with a pleasant atmosphere.

Fumika retorted while the water from the violent waterfall entered her mouth. In contrast Uyamado no Ouji's smile kept its composure till the end.

「Of course. After all you might say, that you're my attendant.」

「Ta-Ta-Taishi-sama, is exactly like my Onee-chan at that respect-pect, bubabah!」

「Actually, since returning from the bottom of the land of Hyperborea—from the land of the death where we encountered God Apollo, I'm feeling really well. My soul is full with vitality, so much so that I almost forget that I'm already dead. It makes me want to have a trip.....」

Uyamado no Ouji ignored Fumika who was suffering from the waterfall training and spoke indifferently.

That was so. All this time Uyamado no Ouji was possessing Tamayori Hime in the journey until now. However, right now he manifested without even using any medium and wandered with his ghost body.

The imperial prince of ancient Japan faced the great heroine of China and spoke frankly.

「Luo Hao-dono. I have one request. Can you lend me a map?」

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## Part 2

「You want to set out on a trip with Fumi-chan in tow?」

Ren was bewildered by the sudden declaration.

That was the first thing Umayado no Ouji said in their reunion after several days.

「In other words, Taishi-san want to travel around this Hyperborea?」

「Indeed.」

Umayado no Ouji casually said.

They arrived several hours ago on the island that was the dwelling of Byakuren Ou aka La Cuilian. But when they visited the mansion of the island owner, they were told that she and Toba Fumika were at a different island for training.

When they were waiting in the guest room, Uyamado no Ouji unexpectedly came there alone.

「Well, I thought to at least inform all of you beforehand.」

「If Fumi-chan also agree, then I don't really mind though.」

「Ha, ha, ha, ha. You don't really need to worry about that.」

The prince laughed elegantly in an aristocratic way and continued.

「You are also in the middle of an emergency journey. It's fine if you quickly return home.」



「In other words Fumi-chan is reluctant. Taishi-san is also pretty bad.」

Ren noticed the other party's ulterior motive and muttered.

If Fumika got separated from Rokuhara Ren and her elder sister, there would be no one she could rely on in this mythological world Hyperborea. She would think that there was no choice other than to follow Uyamado no Ouji—.

「There is no chance that girl will want to remain with honorable master after all.」

Riona nodded in understanding.

「I understand. Let's go with that plan. I'll convince Fumika myself.」

「Eh? You're fine with that, Riona?」

「Yes, it'll be really pitiful for Fumika-sama if she get left behind alone!」

Cassandra also pleaded beside the surprised Ren.

However, Riona ignored them calmly.

「Thinking back, even if we take Fumika back to earth like this, she will only end up like Chiaotzu of Dragon Ball.」

「Chi, Chiao, who?」

Cassandra was confused. On the other hand, Ren immediately got it.

「Aa. You mean, 『You can't keep up with this fight so stay behind』 .」

「Yes. The enemy this time is most likely Athena. From Rokuhara-san's story, she went through a class change and on top of that she even obtained additional skill of Apollo's fire element..... This will truly be a last boss battle, and it's possible that it will even become a world scale calamity. Staying behind in Hyperborea and entering the 『hyperbolic chamber』 will be safer instead.」

Riona spoke at length really logically.

She considered things until that far in an instant. She was quick witted as expected. Ren was impressed. On the contrary, Umayado no Ouji was smiling wryly for some reason.

「Taishi-san, what's the matter?」

「I'm just thinking, as expected. Toba Riona is truly a phoenix among humans, that's a magnificent wisdom.」

「Rather than giving me words of praise, please help me by putting in good words for me. In order to make that demonic master to also permit my return to earth-. That person is planning to detain me here anyway right!?!」

「Understood.」

Umayado no Ouji replied to Riona's request with a villainous smile.

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Thanks to the secret talk and backroom deal, everything progressed smoothly from there.

「That's the situation. Will you face the end of the world at earth where the strongest last boss is waiting, or will you remain here? Do as you please.」

「Uuuu. How can there is only those two choices.....」

Fumika was easily led around by the nose by her elder sister and chose to stay behind in Hyperborea.

And then when it came to the obstinate master,

「Making Uyamado-dono to be indebted to me is it? Very well. Riona, in consideration of that quick wit, I shall permit your return to home.」

「Thank you very much for your generosity!」

They somehow passed through it with such exchange.

Rokuhara Ren and the tiny goddess Stella who was dwelling in his body.  
Toba Riona. Princess Cassandra. The party departed Byakuren Ou's island like thus.

They entered the space distortion that they discovered in the island of goddess Maiden of Water and headed to earth.

The passage for crossing to this alternate world. The inside was filled to the brim with countless lights. It was dazzling like kaleidoscope but—

「Eh? That person, who is that?」

Ren noticed a suspicious person.

The entrance of the space distortion was a large cluster of light. There was an old man wearing a hooded cloak standing right in front of it.

The cloak was really worn out and dusty, as though it had gone through a long journey.

Above all else was the old man's face. It was really wrinkled. His face was overflowing with fatigue and sorrow, as though he had gone through numerous hardships.

The old man was muttering with parched lips.

『The revelation from Jesus Christ..... Which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John——』

The old man didn't stop muttering even after Ren and group came until very near.

Far from that, he didn't even give them a glance.

「Excuse me, hello? Perhaps you have something to say to us mister.....?」

There was no reaction even when Cassandra addressed him with a gentle voice.

The old man was staring fixedly at the space distortion with unfocused eyes. It was as though he was looking at something behind that light.

『I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” .....I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest——』

「.....Uncle. Could it be, you’re John-san?」

The moment Riona asked that.

The old man completely stopped his strange muttering and stared at the incarnation of Yatagarasu seriously.

『Do you know me, young lady?』

「Ah, no. You’re reciting the Revelation of John on and on, so I take a shot in the dark that you are an enthusiastic maniac of the Revelation or the person himself, that’s all.....」

Riona answered awkwardly. Ren interrupted.

「I have heard that name before, the Revelation. I don’t know anything about its content at all though.」

「It’s the passage of prophecy that decorated the end of the New Testament. To summarize, most likely a Christian priest at the first century John-san obtained a vision of the end of the world. He wrote the detail of how the world would meet its end——」

「The Revelation of John-san?」

「Yes. As expected from the other side of the space distortion. To think we will be able to meet the writer of the most famous prophecy of the end, this is really absurd in a good way.」



Riona spoke with a heartfelt feeling.

On the other hand, Cassandra who was also a prophet asked with hesitation.

「You obtained a vision of the destruction of the world.....? Could it be, you can see the destruction even now? Ahead of this light——」

『You really understand.』

Mr. John who seemed to be the writer of Revelation. He admitted it clearly with a candidness that was more like a friendly uncle rather than a prophet.

The gate of light that he was staring at. The earth of Ren and others was at its other side.

『Right now, the time of the end is approaching that world over there. —Three great capitals will be torn apart, cities of many countries will collapse, the great Babylon will be recalled in the presence of god, the wine cup filled with wine of great rage will be given.....』

「Uwaa. Here it comes, the countdown toward the end.」

「Looks like it's already at the stage that cannot be laughed off anymore. Let's steel ourselves, Rokuhara-san.」

『Now then——. The end. I have to directly witness it with this eyes, of how it goes.....』

Mr. John's body lightly floated and advanced forward smoothly in the air.

His whole body was getting faintly transparent. Similar like Uyamado no Uji, he must be a ghost too. The author of the Revelation entered into the gate of light and vanished.

He entered into the world of Ren and co.

「.....Let's go too.」

Ren proclaimed and followed behind Mr. John.

Of course, Riona and Cassandra also followed.

If they crossed the gate of light, it should be near Ararat Mountain of Turkey. It would be the earth that they hadn't visited for a long time, their birthplace that was nearing its destruction—.

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## Part 3

Julio Blandelli didn't have any hobby of reminiscing about the past.

It was because he thought that such activity was nothing but a waste of time. However right now Julio was immersing himself in reminiscence which was unlike him.

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『Hey Julio. What in the world is this.....!?』

What in the world could it be? It was making “that” Rokuhara Ren to be dumbfounded.

The man who was always warm and genial while following his own pace. However, Julio himself was also being unusually flustered. He spat out a voice that was mired in distress.

『It's better that you don't ask. If my guess is correct, I'll have to say an answer that isn't any good at all.....!』

The scenery that the two were watching. It should be a familiar sight for many Japanese people.

Rokuhara Ren and Julio were watching that clearly from the rooftop of a building.

The building was the headquarters of a certain TV station. Rainbow Bridge. A bunch of skyscrapers ahead of it. Odaiba—It was the bay area of 21<sup>st</sup>

century Tokyo.

However, seawater was flooding into that area in surging waves.

—it was a giant tsunami that was pouring in from Tokyo Bay.

It wasn't just Odaiba that was swallowed by flood. Almost all the urban areas that were near the sea, in addition the city center, and even the residential area that was further inland, all of those were drowned by large waves.

Furthermore a heavy bass sound \*GOUUUUUUUUUUUUNNN\* was shaking the air.

『Mount Fuji is.....』

『I fear that Mount Fuji is erupting.....』

Smoke and volcanic ash soared to the sky. The world became terribly darkened.

But, even then the light of the sun pierced through the veil of dust and ash, illuminating the ground that was fully covered by sea water. But—

Ren looked up to the sky and whispered in a daze.

『The sun is.....swallowed by a black shadow.』

『That's not a simple solar eclipse. If I have to say, that's "the death of sun". The morning sun won't rise for the second time.....』

Julio's words became a "prophecy".

Even after one day passed, two days passed, the sun didn't rise once more.

The moon also vanished from the sky.

Whether it was noon or night, there was only gray curtain covering the sky fully.



The skyscrapers of Tokyo were completely swallowed by great flood.

There wasn't any sign of the water level going down at all.

Julio used magic to ascertain the situation of other places.

Not only Japan archipelago, the whole Asia region, North America, South America, Middle East, Africa, Europe—even the North Pole and South Pole, similar tragedy was occurring in the whole world.

『There isn't any more doubt. The end of the world—this is the beginning of the doom.』

Julio muttered.

A world where both the moon and the sun died. Divine spirits that were angered by that grey sky manifested one after another. Even demons and divine beasts came.

Red, blue, black, green, gold, silver, etc, dragons of various colors were also present.

Perhaps those were the 666 Beasts that were written in the bible. That gigantic whale was Leviathan. That huge beast that looked similar with elephant might be Behemoth.

There was also a silver large snake that was seen only for a moment. A silver haired girl was riding on its head.

Everyone descended in order to bring destruction to earth.

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That happened after an easy going Japanese killed Nemesis—achieved the first godslaying.

Julio got acquainted with Rend due to a strange fate. The two of them then began an investigation. They attempted to solve the mystery of the space distortions that were generated one after another.

.....In the middle of that investigation, it rampaged.

The authority Retributive Justice of Rokuhara Ren rampaged.

When Ren ran away with Goddess Nemesis's godspeed, it wasn't by increasing his physical speed. It was "time itself" when traveling from point A to point B that was shortened.

Shortening time. So to speak, it was traveling slightly ahead to the future.

.....When he was still unused with using that authority, Rokuhara Ren activated the godspeed escaping feet while carrying Julio, and then he jumped.

To a future of several months or several years later—.

It seemed that when he activated godspeed while brining other human, the fate of the two were entangled and they went to an unexpected future.

But, the future world they slipped into was in the verge of destruction.

.....Like that, the godslayer and his best friend got a peek of the end of the world.

And then, when they felt terrified that they would also die in that world that was heading to destruction, the entanglement of fate was miraculously fixed—they returned to their original time.

「It wouldn't become like that if it's just an authority to move around in super speed.....」

Julio talked to himself.

Countless gods and divine beasts descended at the final stage of the end of the world.

Thinking back now, most of those were the type of low class god who didn't even have name or low ranked angel. At that time their experience in facing gods was still few and they were unable to judge correctly.

If it was one-on-one, they might not be Rokuhara Ren's match.

However——

「If there is that many present, it's unthinkable that Ren can manage somehow by himself.」

Of course, he was a godslayer exactly because he achieved the impossible but.....

And then above all else, the silver great snake that they witnessed just for a moment. The girl on its head, could she be Goddess Athena.....?

In any case, that tragedy was approaching.

「It will be soon, huh.」

Right now Julio was inside a small chapel.

He was facing a large clock that was larger than even his body.

Doomsday Clock. The time it displayed was exactly at 23:59.

The western mansion built at the outskirts of Spain's third largest city Valencia——.

It was a property that was owned since the founding of Campiones association. Originally it was a mansion for the sake of hiding the 『sleeping beauty of the holy grail』 .

There was a small chapel within its ground.

“The end of the world would begin when it showed twelve o'clock” magical tool was placed here.

—It was raining heavily outside.

The wind was also intense. Right now Valencia was attacked by a storm.

But, this storm didn't just attack south Europe, it was so big that it even swallowed the whole Europe. Furthermore tonight was humid. Even though it would be midwinter soon.

Here was the eastern part of Spain in south Europe. But, the temperature felt like the rainy season of tropical area.

Actually the rate of heavy rain and temperature had been increasing continuously since several days ago. Weather abnormality in the earth scale was starting.

「Sooner or later even the ice of Antarctica will melt and the sea surface will also rise higher. And then—it will become a giant tsunami.」

Julio imagined that gloomy future. It was then.

His smartphone vibrated inside his jacket's pocket. A message had just arrived.

—The preparation to take apart the holy grail is finished. Seeing that short sentence, Julio switched his mood. From here it was the time to face the danger toward the world.

「After all it was said that originally Campiones association was established by my ancestor Caesar to save the world. It's not bad to return to the starting point like this.」

Julio turned on his heel and left the Doomsday Clock.

He didn't look back anymore. At this point of time, the hand of the clock reaching 12 o'clock had become nothing but a trivial problem after all.

He drove his beloved car under the heavy rain and furious wind.



Planes and ships were stopping service not just within Spain, but almost in the whole Europe. There was almost no car driving outside.

Everyone sensed the sign of the great abnormality. Everyone was shaking in fear though in different degree.

Thanks to that he could drive fast without any reservation. He arrived at the center of Valencia in record breaking time——.

Julio went down to the underground of the cathedral.

The underground space was intentionally created at the establishment of Campiones association. There was practically no decoration here. It was a “secret room” that was only surrounded by stone wall.

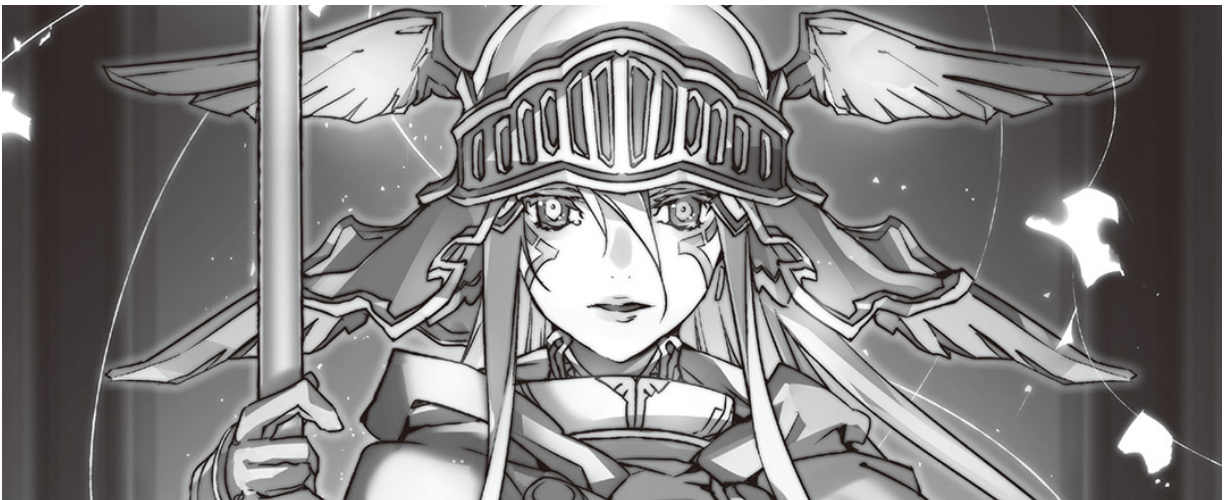
It was as big as a school classroom. More than ten people, man and woman were gathering there.

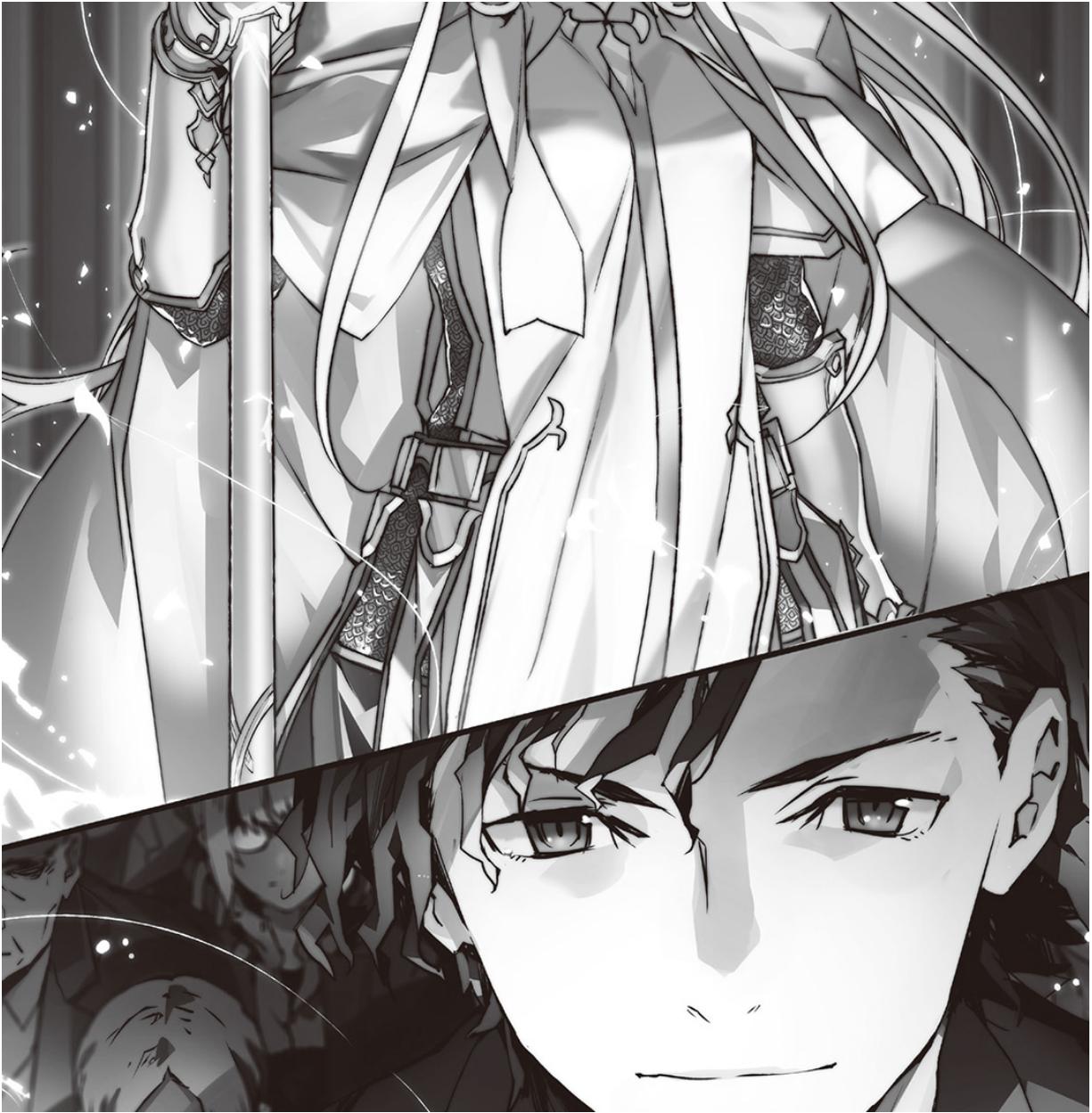
Everyone was a member of Campiones. They were waiting for their leader Julio. The members’ nationality, race, and age were all over the place. However, everyone was human.

When Julio arrived, “someone not human” also appeared out of nowhere.

「I’ve been waiting, o beloved child.」

A female knight wearing armor and surcoat.





She was the protector of Blandelli House, the White Queen. The association members were taken aback by the divine majesty of this woman who suddenly materialized and they backed away in a hurry.

Julio and the queen faced each other while being watched by everyone.

「This time has finally arrived, queen.」

「Umu. More than a hundred years has passed since I first accompanied this troublesome object called the holy grail—. Thinking back, it feels like a long time, but also short.」

The queen displayed a wry smile on her gallant and beautiful face.

While she was the guardian spirit of Blandelli House, she was also the second generation leader of Campiones association.

Similar like Rokuhara Ren, the founder Caesar was apparently also a traveler of the diverse worlds. When he departed to a new world, he entrusted the future affairs to his guardian spirit.

Three years later Caesar's death would be publicized, and the second generation leader would be announced.

That was the plan at first.

But, as expected the effect from the absence of the man who was the demon king and godslayer was great. The guardian spirit, the White Queen acted as the body double of the founder Caesar for nearly twenty years.

The third leader was Monica Blandelli.

She was the daughter of the founder Caesar and an extraordinary magician. Monica had no child. The fourth leader was her nephew. Julio was his descendant.

The bloodline of Blandelli clan had concealed a great treasure for generations.

It was none other than the Holy Grail of Valencia. It was deeply connected with the ley line of this area, a sacred treasure that breathed life and vitality into the land. On the other hand it absorbed vast amount of life energy from the fertile land.

That life energy was none other than the energy source of the White Queen.

She was once a god, furthermore she was a mighty war god. Without the “energy of the Holy Grail”, she would be unable to wield her authority satisfactorily.

150 years since the founding of the association. The queen rarely wielded her full strength.

If she did that repeatedly, as expected even the Holy Grail would use up its stockpiled energy within a short time and the land of Valencia would be dried up.

Also, the damage to the ley line that was bonded to the Holy Grail would be immeasurable.

However right now an 『axe』 was handed to Julio. It was the magical tool that was prepared by Campiones’s followers. This very heavy axe—was swung down powerfully as the leader of the association.

It was swung down on the Holy Grail that had been safeguarded for a long time.

The mass of rock that shined in pink color was smashed for real this time. It became hundreds of rock fragments that scattered everywhere.

「Queen! You can take everything as your own!」

「Leave it to me. I shall display how mighty my martial prowess is to you to your heart’s contents!」

Julio yelled. The queen gallantly gave her assurance.

The pink fragments of the smashed rock, all of them were absorbed into the White Queen’s body.

.....Now when the end of the world was approaching, there was no use in worrying about damage toward the ley line. Rather than that if they could have the queen to absorb all of the Holy Grail that was separated from the land—



Until now, the White Queen was unable to go away for long from Valencia.

Now the strongest piece under his control became able to take action independently. This was one of the measures prepared by Julio in order to stand against the danger of the world.

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## Part 4

Rokuhara Ren and his companions finally returned home to earth.

Their arrival point was the east end of Turkey territory, near the national border of Armenia as well as Iran. Strong wind and heavy rain, and out of season humidity was waiting for them.

It was night. Furthermore it was at a plain located at the foot of a mountain where there wasn't any light.

「This is like summer in Japan! One when a typhoon came!」

「Ren-sama! With this raging storm, we can't possibly set sail to the sea!」

Ren and Cassandra talked loudly so that their voice wouldn't be drowned by the sound of rain and wind.

Riona also matched them and yelled with similar voice volume.

「The planes must be cancelled too in this situationnn. Argh, troublesome! Everyone, please come to my side!」

They were right beside a crater that was believed as the site where a meteor fell, it was a tourist spot near Ararat Mountain.

Everyone was struck by the heavy rain. They gathered close under that to have Toba Riona used her specialty magic to fly freely. The group was enveloped in a clump of blue light and flew away.

「If the situation is this emergency, there won't be any problem even if we get sighted and thought as UFO!」

They were carried by Riona who threw caution to the wind—

They returned back to the center of Valencia City.

The rest was simple. They contacted their comrade in Campiones and asked for a pickup using car until Valencia's cathedral.

「Good job coming back, Ren. It's good to see that Princess Cassandra is also safe.」

「Julio-sama! I'm happy to be able to meet you once more!」

「We completed the mission somehow. There are also other things to talk about but, we're all soaked wet here. Can we take a shower first?」

Cassandra rejoiced her reunion with Julio, while Ren spoke easygoingly.

For the time being they headed to the principal residence of Blandelli House. Other than the room where Julio was living alone, it was also a mansion that was owned by his family for generations.

Rokuhara Ren, Princess Cassandra, Toba Riona—.

The three of them finally undressed from their soaked wet outfit there and felt refreshed after taking shower.

Although their anxiety from before was still there, they decided to take a break already for tonight. The three of them entered into their respectively assigned room.

They slept like a log in preparation for tomorrow—or that was how it should be.

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「Ren-sama. There is something that I wish to talk about.....」

「Cassandra.」

Late at night, a girl sneaked into Rokuhara Ren's room.

He didn't lock the door. The princess of Troy opened the door without even knocking and slipped inside like it was only natural.

.....Just a little while ago, Cassandra signaled with her eyes when they parted away.

She used eye contact because Riona was still beside them at that time. Their relationship was at the point where they could already communicate eye to eye. Ren immediately comprehended her meaning and didn't lock his door. Because he knew she would surely come later.

Like this, a tryst of just the two of them was easily realized.

Ren and Cassandra sat side by side on the same bed. They started talking while snuggling close to each other. They were glued to each other and felt each other's body temperature.

「A while ago, after John-sama left, I saw it.」

「Was it some kind of future situation?」

If the prophet of tragedy said that she saw, then it was obviously something like that.

Asked by Ren, Cassandra nodded with a depressed expression.

「Yes. ....A lot of sea water surged to the land and swallowed almost the whole land. The sun and moon also vanished from the sky, in exchange thousands of dragons filled the sky.」

「Wow. I and Julio also saw the same thing before.」

That future must be stipulated already. Ren smiled bitterly.

Even so, recently his heart wouldn't feel discomposed even when he listened to Cassandra's prophecy. No one would believe her prophecy—that was the curse of the sun god Apollo. In the past even Rokuhara Ren would almost harbor some doubt toward her.

Was this because Ren had gotten used to it, or was it because Apollo was destroyed? Or it was because of both?

In any case, this was a happy discovery. However.

「That's not all. I and—Julio-sama will be bitten by a monster's poisonous fang. I saw even that kind of future.....」

「What did you say?」

As expected, Ren frowned hearing this prophecy.

Ren displayed an angry expression. Cassandra whispered with an anxious face right beside him.

「I don't know the detail of the course of events but, we—the two of us will be swallowed into the jaw of a large snake together. And then, the one who send the snake will be the divine daughter of Zeus.....」

「Athena-san huh.」

Ren muttered.

.....He was aware that he had an optimistic personality. However at the same time, he was also aware that Cassandra's prophecy was correct one hundred times out of a hundred until now. Rather than doubting the future talk of the Troy princess, it would be better for him to get eaten by snake too.

That was why, Rin grinned cheerfully.

「It will be fine. Just because you two get swallowed whole, that doesn't mean that you will die for sure.」

「Is that so.....」

「Besides, if Julio and Cassandra get killed because of that—I swear I'll kill Athena-san with this hand. I'll do it even if I have to go down together with her. I swear I'll take revenge even if it's at the cost of my life.」

If his talking partner was a girl, then he would be able to say boastful words no matter how many without any reservation.

“Flashiness without substance” was like Rokuhara Ren’s creed. That was why in his head he understood that it would be fine if he said something like 『I’ll protect you without fail』 to her.

However, he was unable to say that exactly because he knew very well just how powerful Athena was.

In exchange those words rushed out of his mouth. Even though he was unable to promise that he would protect her without fail, if it was an oath to kill Athena without fail—for some reason he got the feeling that he would be able to keep that promise.

Perhaps, that was exactly the nature of godslayer.

And then, Cassandra stared fixedly at the face of the boasting Ren from the side. It seemed she found something in the eyes of the godslayer.

「I’m happy, Ren-sama!」

The girl suddenly hugged him. And then without pause she pushed down Ren. Ren lied down on the bed while catching Cassandra.

The Troy’s princess kept holding down Ren while bringing her lips closer.

The kiss suddenly became a deep one. On and on their lips pressed, sucked, and pecked on each other. Their tongue entangled together, displaying their affection.

Naturally, the body of Cassandra that was on top was pressing firmly on Ren’s body.

He was able to fully feel the weight and voluptuousness of a maiden’s abundantly fleshy parts.

Ren finally stopped kissing while still being pressed down by the girl.



In exchange, he sucked at Cassandra's neck from below. His lips and tongue crawled on there.

「Aa.....」

The allure that she usually wouldn't show on the surface by all means was added with Cassandra's moan.

「Ren-sama, that, the lighting.....」

「Yeah. At the very least just for tonight, just the two of us.....」

Finally the two of them would go all out with the excitement, but then at that very moment.

\*Click\*. The bedroom's door opened. Come to think of it, after inviting Cassandra in, he didn't lock the door. The one who slowly entered inside was unexpectedly——





「Riona-sama.....!？」

「Ah, right. Riona had something like sleepwalking condition.」

Toba Riona entered the room with a drowsy gaze and staggering footsteps.

The reincarnation of Yatagarasu, and the partner who was tied to Rokuhara Ren with the authority Contract of Wings. Often she would sought to be connected with Ren and came until his bed.

「Riona?」

「Nnn.....」

Even when he addressed her, Riona herself kept looking drowsy.

If he brought her back to her bedroom just like this, then perhaps he would be able to go through this without any particular discord. Ren fleetingly

thought that while embracing Cassandra on the bed, but.

「Heh——？」

Riona suddenly came to her senses and she looked around inside the room restlessly.

After that she stared fixedly at Ren and Cassandra who were entangled with each other on the bed. Both her eyes snapped wide open. Her mind was in a mess with astonishment and shock,

「Eh? Eh? Eh!？」

She repeated the same word three times before she finally spoke out words with meaning.

「Ro, Rokuhara-san? And Princess Cassandra too, why are you two doing something like that!？」

「Riona-sama.....」

Here Ren was feeling admiration.

Unlike himself who was relatively used to this kind of scene of carnage, this should be Cassandra's first experience in this kind of situation. However, she was softly smiling at Riona.

She did that while giving a glimpse of someone composed standing in the upper position, without the slightest timidity at all.

「In other words, it is as you can see. Please pay attention from here on. There will be a lot of time when I spend time with Ren-sama, just the of us alone so.....」

「Eee——!？」

Riona finally screamed with a face that was shocked from the bottom of her heart.

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And then, around the same time Rokuhara Ren was facing carnage.

Goddess Athena too was scheming to finally cause troubles and visited a certain place. Strangely that place wasn't that far from where Ren and others were staying.

「So it's here.」

Her appearance and voice belonged to a girl in the early teens.

And yet regardless of that, there wasn't any loveliness from her. Only her dignity of a queen was standing out. Athena who descended in order to destroy the world was in front of a building.

It was a western mansion that was standing quietly at the outskirts of Valencia.

Several hours ago, Julio Blandelli was facing the Doomsday Clock here.

「So the main culprit that is causing the kink of fate is sleeping here.....」

Athena muttered.

She was clad in green robe. Her silver hair was growing long.

However, more than ten living snakes were lurking inside that splendid long hair. They were wriggling around. The snakes were alive.

She wasn't the divine daughter of Zeus anymore. She threw away her rank herself.

The current Athena was a queen who ruled the land, and also an angered mother earth goddess.

## **Chapter 2 – Raging Athena**

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## Part 1

Athena was exposed to the strong wind and rain the whole time.

The surface—the land that was called as earth by the humans was the same anywhere. The island country at the far east, the ice field stretching at the far north, the ice ridge towering at the far south, the edge of the continent at the far west..... The storm was raging everywhere at those places without end with heavy rain pouring from the sky.

Naturally, Athena herself was also wet. She was constantly drenched.

Her clothes absorbed water and turned heavy. The land was muddy. But, of course there was no way such trivial things gave Athena any difficulty.

She continued to wander all over the world without paying it any mind.

Athena did nothing but walked and walked. She crossed the sea, walked, crossed the sea—

Right now, she ascertained with her own eyes, the fury of the rain and wind that filled the world everywhere. No, it was exactly because of Athena's visit that the land was filled with wind and rain.

Something that the great goddess was secretly carrying—it was continuously bringing about the 《destruction by water》 .

Furthermore, the temperature was also rising at the land that she visited.

It was to the degree that the coldness of the winter was pushed aside and the people felt misapprehension that they were at southern country in summer instead.



At the land that was already hot from the beginning like desert or jungle, heat and rain and humidity were whirling and turning into a terribly unpleasant atmosphere for human race.

Even the land that was originally intensely cold was visited with warm weather that was like everlasting spring, melting the snow.

—The divine power of fire that warmed the land and atmosphere.

The flame that was entrusted to her by Apollo who perished at Hyperborea. This was a miracle that was brought about by none other than the world destroying great fire sleeping throughout Athena's body.

「Fufufufu」

Athena chuckled.

「The destruction by water that I bring. The destruction by fire that Apollo entrusted to me. Humans of the surface, resign yourself to these two destructions as the heaven's judgment.....」

The current surface, the human race's so called earth was just too dirty.

It was due to the civilization that they built. It was due to their very existence itself. First she would sweep away those foolish creations, eradicate the humans that multiplied uncontrollably, and then she would create a new heaven and earth.

「Fuh」

Athena pictured the future and smiled fiercely.

「Perhaps it'll be also good to change the land's shape itself. Right now it has the shape of a sphere but.....it will be interesting to remake it into a flat land.」

The humans called this land 『地球』. (TN: 地球, read chikyuu, means earth. It was made from the kanji of 地/earth/land/ground/soil and 球/sphere, it literally meant soil ball)

However even if the land wasn't spherical but level instead, the gods wouldn't mind it at all.

It was truly a game that was only allowed to god, and not just a mere god but only the supreme god and nobody else. The current Athena had the freedom and trump card that allowed her to impose her will toward even the heaven and earth.

The hair of the goddess that contained the radiance of silver moon was long and simply divine.

More than ten snakes showed their face from between her hair. The long and slender snakes twisted their body. That was the proof that she had taken back the power of an ancient supreme god.

「But, before beginning the destruction and creation」

After travelling everywhere on the polluted surface, Athena arrived to a certain place.

「The end of the world is already inevitable due to my judgment. With the preparation taken care of to this point, even the knight of destiny won't be able to stop its implementation. However——」

Night.

Athena boasted quietly while leading strong wind and heavy rain with her.

She was at the outskirts of an unsightly prosperous city, in front of a mansion that was built around many fields.

It was a place with thick presence of godslayer and someone similar to a god. That was only natural, this was a metropolis where Rokuhara Ren was taking up residence.

The people serving that man were also firmly established here. But, the most important point was——

「An existence that can possibly twist the flow of fate using some kind of “surprise move that is beyond the pale”.....is here. Such existence should be eliminated.」

Athena's spiritual sense as a god of wisdom taught her that.

She was an existence that should always be wiser than anyone else, overwhelming others with ingenuity and maneuvers. She was also painted into such figure even in the mythology of Greece where she was considered as Zeus's daughter.

She used owl as her divine messenger. Her eyes that were shining with wisdom were also likened to this bird.

However, originally Athena was also a goddess of snake that was overflowing with intelligence. As evidence of that, the shadow of snake monster Medusa was constantly shadowing her throughout her life.

The head of Medusa that the hero Perseus dedicated to her, it was embedded into Athena's shield after that.

Talking about Medusa, she was the youngest of the three Gorgon sisters. In exchange of hair there were countless snakes crowning her hair. After her death, it was also said that she was an existence that was constantly staying close to Athena as a shield. In addition Athena was a goddess of wisdom, but Medusa's name also meant wisdom.....

Starting from Medusa, the snake goddesses and Athena were an existence that was like two sides of the same coin.

「Right now is the time for the goddess's iron hammer to strike the prosperity that is established by means of iron and sword——」

Athena whispered solemnly and stepped into the ground of the mansion, in order to nip off the hindrance that should be sleeping here.

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## Part 2

The end of the world should be progressing with the passing of each second.

However an argument that was unrelated to it was being carried out in the principal residence of Blandelli House. No, it was really doubtful though whether the content of the talk was worthy to be called argument.....

If the points of both camps were summarized, it would be like below.

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The claim of the complainant, Toba Riona

「Tha-tha-tha-tha-that's really shameless Rokuhara-san!? Doing such thing with Princess Cassandra! Fu, furthermore, doing it secretly behind my back——」

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The claim of the accused, Rokuhara Ren

「Sorry Riona. Certainly, doing this behind your back isn't good. I reflexively hid it because of my habit from the past. Thinking back it would be better to just do it brazenly. I think you already realized now but, my relationship with Cassandra has grown to become like this, best regard♪」

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Riona went 「Fuah!?!」 and lost her words when her Goshujin-sama casually said that.

Even though he was caught red-handed, Rokuhara Ren was unbelievably not acting like a guilty person at all and said that cheerfully.

Furthermore, he added this too.

「Also, I think you can't really call this shameless. We were acting sneakily because we were being considerate so that other people's feeling won't be offended.」

「Co-co-co-considerate you say!?!」

Riona twisted in agony hearing the audacious excuse. Rokuhara Ren smiled brightly.

「Yep. Not just Riona, I believe that Julio and also Stella would also get offended about something like this.」

「Certainly that's true.」

Spectator 1, Julio who came running when he heard the commotion nodded.

「If I say that I don't feel exasperated at just what in the world are you doing in this emergency time with the end of the world approaching, then I would be lying. However, well, it's also boorish to try to put a stop to the romantic emotion between people. You can keep the romance as long as it doesn't pose any hindrance to the completion of the mission.」

「Thank you, Julio!」

The happy-go-lucky goshujin-sama gave a thumb up at his “best friend”.

Also, spectator 2 the tiny goddess Stella who showed herself as soon as the commotion began—she sighed 「haa」 deeply and commented with a fed up tone.

「I have noticed it since a long time ago, so I don't care..... Really, when it come to Ren, as expected from someone who caught the eye of Aphrodite, you're a go-getter even at this aspect. Well, even the bird girl has found out, so just do whatever you like from here on.」

「As expected from Stella. You can be talked with.」

「Even I has done something similar a lot of times, so it can't be helped-. Geez!」

「Wait! Are you really fine with that, Stella!?!」

「Or rather bird girl, really you. These two would stare at each other, hug each other, and kiss if there was a chance you know? To think that you didn't notice at all, as a maiden there is a limit in being pathetic.」

「I'm the one who got dissed instead!?!」

Riona was dumbfounded. Stella aka Goddess Aphrodite who harbored affection for Rokuhara Ren, she thought that she was surely at her side. And then.

「Can I say something?」

The other accused and also the defendant of Rokuhara Ren, Cassandra opened her mouth.

「From what I observed.....Ren-sama and Riona-sama, the two of you are certainly betrothed. But, in the end that relationship is only limited at the surface. A contractual engagement with the premise that both sides will make use of each other's strength and status—that's what it is correct?」

「Uguh」

She hit the nail on the head. Riona was speechless once more. Indeed.

She and her goshujin-sama exchanged “that kind of promise” for their engagement. Furthermore when the engagement was first brought up, he said this to her.

『In that case keeping the act as husband and wife only at the surface while each of us have other person as our true lover is also one way you know——』

『A fake marriage merely for form's sake, a contract marriage. Something like that happen often—』

Riona recalled it while searching for something to say.

But, she couldn't find any complaint that she could speak of.

It was a shameful sight that was unbecoming for Toba Riona who was intelligent and skilled in talking. The Troy princess watched her state with an air of composure while forming a smile.

「Please don't worry. In the end Cassandra is someone that can't stand in the spotlight. There is no changing the fact that Riona-sama is the lawful wife. I'm satisfied with just being able to stay close and ascertain my love with Ren-sama like this.」

The mentioned above was the advocacy of Cassandra side.

She stated such thing with a gentle and mature smile.

It was a composure that came from coming to know about unchanging love. Or perhaps it was from the warmth of heart that came from the feeling of fullness being loved by him both in body and heart. In any case, something like that was firmly supporting Princess Cassandra right now and making her strong.

Riona was damaged overwhelmingly in front of the princess's smile.

(So—something is not good like this!?)

There was an unknown sense of defeat and unease inside her. It was a feeling that she felt for the first time since she was born. No good. Riona spoke to persuade herself.

(I, I have to be calm-. Just like what Dark Green Tactician, Vandels Grineed said, 『Be cool.....Be cool.....』 . In the first place, why am I feeling like this.....?)

Did she actually, love that goshujin-sama?



She loved that total good-for-nothing free spirit, Rokuhara Ren? No no, there was no way that was the case. Perhaps it wasn't. It shouldn't be so. But, perhaps——?

(In the first place the two of us, are connected by Nike's authority.....)

The winged goddess Nike who was defeated by goshujin-sama at Troy.

The authority Contract of Wings was usurped from the subordinate god that served Athena. It was a power that strengthened an existence that soared in the sky as Rokuhara Ren's partner.

This magical and spiritual connection would sometime drive Riona to take strange action.

However, such matter was something that she had completely understood since their journey in Midgard.....

(Other possibility that I can think of is)

Riona forcefully ignored her discomposed emotion and thought hard.

In any case, she pondered fervently if she was able to somehow find a logical reason why “he” was in her mind so much before she finally yelled.

「Rokuhara-san!」

「What is it Riona? It looks like you were thinking really hard.」

「Yo, you see, in any case let's shelve away the matter of pretend engagement for a bit. Please don't flirt with Princess Cassandra before my eyes-. Yes.....this is a problem of very delicate 『woman heart』!」

「Woman heart!」

Riona insisted forcefully at her surprised goshujin-sama.

「Even if we aren't lover, I can't tolerate a man close to me to direct his feeling toward a woman other than me. It's the same like the idol of Meisei

High School or the supervisor of Ikkoku Hall!」 (TN: Reference to Mix and Maison Ikkoku)

「Eeee, that's just a story in manga isn't it?」

Rokuhara Ren had a quite deep knowledge about otaku hobby, even so the foundation of his personality was comparatively non-otaku despite of that. He easily objected to Riona.

「Furthermore you're referring to manga from Showa era」

「Nothing wrong with that-. Or are you saying that I am falling behind Minami-chan or Kyouko-san!?!」

「Bird girl. This is an advice from me as a goddess of love.....right now, you're almost getting stuck into a swamp that you mustn't get stuck into.」

Ren was bewildered, Riona was deranged, and Stella was exasperated.

It was when they were straying off into this kind of argument.

It seemed a phone call came in. Julio took out his smartphone. The conversation was short. The face of the association leader was terribly grim after listening to his subordinate's report——

「Bad news.」

The call ended and Julio spoke.

「A goddess who is assumed as Athena appeared in this Valencia. Furthermore it's at a facility of the association. The location is the mansion that is safekeeping the Doomsday Clock.」

「What is she going to do at that kind of place?」

Rokuhara Ren's expression immediately tensed as soon as she heard the god's name.

His face was one suitable for a warrior. The young noble who was supporting this godslayer as his closest aide shook his head.

「I don't know. Currently that clock doesn't have any worth. One possibility that I can think of, is perhaps——」

In any case, they had to hurry to the site.

Riona too switched her feeling for the moment and nodded to her goshujin-sama.

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## Part 3

There was a small chapel inside the mansion that Athena barged into.

This was the place where the Doomsday Clock stayed since it was brought here several months ago. However, the goddess didn't even give it a single glance.

With imposing footsteps that were befitting a queen, she approached the two-storied main building.

「An incomprehensible and dreadful power—a power that is distorting the result of the proper karma is lurking here, waiting for the time of its liberation..... How very troublesome.」

The building was being protected by magic spell.

It was something that wouldn't allow the invasion of anyone. This dilapidated mansion was a confined area that wouldn't allow an ordinary person to even open the door.

But, something like a barrier that was formed by human technique was meaningless before Athena.

Everything was taken care of just by chanting a single word of power.

「Burn to nothing.」

The fire divinity that was conceded to her from Apollo. This word of power invoked it.

The mansion was enveloped in blazing flame in the blink of eye. It began to blaze powerfully. The scorching conflagration illuminated the night's darkness. Even the heavy rain couldn't hope to weaken the fire's vigor.

The mansion was built from brick and had two floors. It wasn't a small building at all.

However, it returned into ash in only several seconds inside the blazing flame. It was the only natural result after the words of power of divine fire were used.

Don't mention the wood, even the solid brick was melted by the high temperature.

After everything was burned to ash until not even the mansion's base remained, the flame flared up further with the force as though it would scorch even the sky—or that was how it should be.

Right now a scene that was overturning logic was happening before Athena's eyes.

The conflagration that annihilated the mansion, it was gradually getting smaller!

「As I thought.」

The flame finally vanished completely. Athena watched it to the end and muttered.

The ground that should have everything in it destroyed by fire and became ash.

There was a bed existing silently there. The white sheet was dirtied to become pitch black. But, that was because of soot. It wasn't because it was scorched.

On the pitch black bed, there was a maiden who was dirtied by soot sleeping soundly.

Her skin was brown. Both her arms were folded on her stomach. She was wearing a sleeping wear. Her sleep looked very peaceful. This girl endured Athena's conflagration.

And yet, the flame that annihilated the mansion was extinguished.

It wasn't an act that could be done by an ordinary person. However if it was with the flesh of godslayer that possessed high resistance against magic and divine power, it wouldn't be strange at all—

「So there is one more hiding.」

Another godslayer than Rokuhara Ren. Athena nodded.

「However, it seems she is also imprisoned in a coffin of sleep..... In that case, I simply need to swing down the iron hammer of divine punishment once more and dispose of her.」

(Wai-, wait, please wait a second!)

Suddenly a girl's voice interrupted.

A “living spirit” appeared right above the bed. It was a lovely girl with brown skin wearing sleep wear. Her appearance looked exactly like the sleeping godslayer.

(Attacking someone like that without saying anything first, that's too much! I assume that you are a great goddess with amazing pedigree-. Ca, can't we talk it out first!?)

「Denied.」

Athena answered succinctly.

「It's just as you said. I have no intention for having dialogue. Perish.」

(Hieeeeeeeeh!? Ple, please spare me! My body is sleeping, so I'm practically powerless you knoooww!)

It seemed her authority was sealed. That was convenient.

But, she didn't express it with words. She was put off by the talkative living spirit.

The night sky was covered with raincloud that was pouring heavy rain. Athena fired several lightning strikes from there swiftly.

The lightning that belonged to Zeus. It was a familiar armament for his daughter.

The raincloud was making rumbling heavy bass sound resounding above the two of them. The living spirit godslayer was—yelling with everything she had.

(I, I can only try my last resort! My body, please show your guts!)

Her voice was the voice of desperation. It was the cry of her soul.

And then a terrific surge of power burst out from the body that was lying on the bed.

(The fortunate, bestow grace toward those who accomplish good—! The virtuous shall be blessed with good results, the wicked shall be met with bad results!)

「Mu.....that's!」

Athena gazed in wonderment.

The undulation of power that forcefully twisted the result of fate. People called that good luck, but it was also something that they detested as bad luck.

Athena's instinct saw through the authority that this godslayer concealed.

「Good fortune and bad fortune, blessing and disaster.....this authority strangely heighten these two type of powers that distort the conclusion of fate. You cause convenient fortune for yourself while pushing bad luck to other people—. What incorrigible and selfish power!」

The power should be sealed. However.

It was easily dragged out due to the fear of death acting as impetus.



That was right. The godslaying beast was a shameless existence that constantly made that kind of mess. Athena clicked her tongue and heard the sound of thunder.

A lightning fell from overhead.

It fell toward the godslayer's bed and the living spirit.

But, Athena quickly abandoned that course of action because the attack would be blocked anyway. That was why she wasn't surprised even when the lightning's power was absorbed into "something".

Something cylinder suddenly appeared right in front of the girl and the bed.

It was an iron sword that was stabbed into the ground. It shined platinum. Its blade was as tall as a child. The thick blade reminded one of a hatchet.

This shining great sword absorbed all of Athena's lightning and entrapped them.

(My, what a very splendid sword! Did a kind person somewhere sent it here for me? Though it feels like I have seen it from somewhere before!)

The living spirit godslayer's eyes lit up with hope at the sudden miracle.

On the other hand Athena was completely shocked this time in the presence of the great sword's divine radiance.

「Of all people, why are you descending here!? The sword that contain white divine light. The sacred treasure that appear at the end of this world and protect the world—o Divine Sword of Salvation!」

The savior who the godslaying girl called with the authority of fortune—.

The one who possessed this sword was extolled as savior, hero. They were entrusted with the fate to protect the world. This was the ultimate divine tool.

There shouldn't be anyone who was charged with this responsibility for a while but.....

Athena immediately noticed.

「I see..... Right now I'm a great sinner who twist the fate of this world and attempt to destroy it. Because of that the sword of salvation descended. It's drawn here by that accursed godslayer's authority, in order to strike me down——!」

(I don't really get it but, I'm saved! Thank you!)

The living spirit girl smiled brightly.

She must be thinking that she would be able to get through this crisis with this. However Athena chuckled. She had seen that there would be no more good luck for her from now.

Athena was a god of wisdom. She would abruptly attain enlightenment of various matters due to divine revelation.

「As I thought good luck and bad luck is like an entangled rope. How unfortunate for you, godslayer. Certainly that holy sword is a legitimate armament of salvation with amazing pedigree. However there is no swordsman to wield it. It's something that is a bit too heavy for you who is still entrapped in sleep.」

(Heh?)

The living spirit girl floated in the air in panic.

She went until the side of the divine sword that was stuck in the ground and reached out to its handle with both hands. She grabbed it and attempted to pull it out, but it ended in vain. After all she was just a ghost. She couldn't touch the sword.

The living spirit smiled widely to hide her awkwardness.

(Ah, no, perhaps it will be fine, I'm sure. If you move by yourself like just now, and protect me in autopilot then—)

「I too shall send you to hell this time for sure with all my strength.」

Athena smiled haughtily.

「In the first place I shouldn't use the armament of the likes of Zeus. He is someone who I once called father but, in actuality that man is no different than a hateful enemy for Athena. After all he is an unjust and unfaithful fellow who not only violated Goddess Metis who is my mother and also my other self, and not only that he even devoured her.....」

(You, you shouldn't expose the discord between family in front of other peopleee-)

The living spirit girl said while faking a smile.

(I will take my leave soon! Excuse meee!)

「I'll lend you a hand. ....Feel free to depart, to the bottom of the dark real of Hades. It's the territory where the mother earth reign supreme, the country of the queen who govern both life and death.」

The noisy living spirit girl, the bed where the real body of a godslayer was sleeping.

The ground right below them suddenly crumbled. A hole that looked similar like ant's nest was created on the ground surface. It began to swallow the soil, mud, and the bed.

The living spirit was also sinking together from getting dragged by her “bond of soul” with her flesh body.

(Hiiih! Do your best again, my body!)

The flesh body of godslayer responded to that with an attempt to negate the divine power and spell.

That was why, the bed where the girl was sleeping on was slowly sinking, bit by bit into the ground. Originally it should vanish inside in the blink of eye.

Athena arrogantly informed the godslayer who was resisting with everything she had.

「Don't ask for the impossible anymore. Your body's hard fight deserves praise. But, with its soul separated from it, even its desperate resistance won't amount to much.....」

It wasn't by the fire or lightning that were borrowed things.

This time Athena seriously handed down a divine punishment using her original authority. Yes. Athena who returned to her ancient form and became one with 『snake』 was a mother earth goddess. She was a goddess of death.

There was no way the girl could resist with her mind and body not in her best condition.

(So, some god somewhere, please I beg you to save Aishaaa!)

The living spirit yelled a prayer that was unbecoming for a godslayer.

It seemed her name was Aisha. But, that name didn't have any more worth. The bed and sleeping body, including the living spirit, the godslaying witch were finally sinking into the bottom of earth deeply. They wouldn't come to the surface anymore—.

The first victory for the start.

Athena nodded while looking up to the sky.

Fierce wind and rain blew violently inside the darkness. The night sky was terribly stormy. However a golden light came flying from far away.

That was without a doubt a bird of fire. A sacred bird shining gold.

It appeared Rokuhara Ren's retainer was carrying her master here. The second battle would begin soon.

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## Part 4

「It's very good of you to come, Rokuhara Ren.」

Athena transformed into snake haired goddess at Hyperborea's realm of the dead.

The “arch-enemy” who was in an obviously powered up state and Ren. They were unexpectedly reunited once more at the outskirts of Ren's stronghold Valencia.

「I have mostly finished the preparation to purify the polluted surface. You are the only remaining concern. I will deal with you immediately.」

「That's really to the point.」

Ren faced the great goddess who was overflowing with fighting spirit and muttered.

「But, I guess there is no other choice but to fight after coming this far—. I accept. With my and Riona's golden combination that is!」

(Yes! Let's teach her a lesson, goshujin-sama!)

Yatagarasu was flying inside the wind and rain of the humid stormy night.

She spread out her golden wings fully and flew while calmly cruising through the blowing wind. But Ren wasn't the only one with a winged partner.

Athena also called to the sky.

「In exchange of Nike who was defeated midway—serve me, Harpyia!」

The human faced bird that they also encountered at Kobe, a monster of Greek mythology.

Its face and upper body was that of a beautiful human girl. Bird wings grew from both its shoulders. Its lower body was that of bird itself. That was Harpyia. Its feather was black like crow.

But this time the mythical bird that Athena summoned was—.

While it also had the name Harpyia, its feather was pure white. Furthermore it was huge.

Its wing length was more than twenty meter, almost the same size with Yatagarasu. The sacred bird of Japan was shining gold, while the mythical bird of Mediterranean Sea was shining pure white.

And then, Yatagarasu fired bluish white flame from both her wings—.

Red flash surged from Harpyia's beautiful eyes.

The flame and flash clashed in the air and annihilated each other. With that as the signal, Yatagarasu and Harpyia entered a dogfight.

They chased around each other while firing flame or flash from the back.

Yatagarasu took her opponent's back and unleashed her flame with the flap of her golden wings.

Harpyia evaded that with a smooth roll while circling to Yatagarasu's back and fired a flash from both its eyes.

In respond Yatagarasu performed a sharp turn. Harpyia chased with an instantaneous dive.

The battle of fellow divine bird didn't only use pure firepower, they also tried to decide the superiority of 『wings』 as the controller of the sky.

Around that time, their masters also began their showdown on the muddy ground.

「O shield of lightning Aegis. Now is the time to discard your protection and exterminate the one opposing me!」

「That thing again! That's nostalgic!」

The shield of Aegis that he also faced in the past at Troy.

It was a square shield that was covered with goat skin. However it would float in the air even without a hand holding it. It fired lightning attack from above Athena one after another. Its target was of course Rokuhara Ren.

Ren ran with Goddess Nemesis's escaping feet, jumped, and stepped. He continued to evade.

Being able to endure through all the lightning that were fired from close range was only possible because Rokuhara Ren was a godslayer who possessed godspeed—a speed that was equal to the lightning.

He was able to avoid the enemy attack was also due to his signature move from his boxer period.

But this time there was an obstruction that was hindering Ren's "forte".

「That look in your eyes, it gives me the creep you know Athena-san!」

「Kukukuku. The binding of Medusa will restrain you for eternity. You will only turn into stone statue after stopping jumping around at the end!」

Athena left the offense wholly to Aegis.

On top of that, she continued to stare fixedly at Ren. Because he was running around with godspeed, Rokuhara Ren's figure couldn't even be perceived by the eye of ordinary person. Even so her eyes were staring fixedly—.

Like the eyes of an owl, Athena's eyes were shining inside the darkness.

Furthermore, there were another eyes staring at Ren. The ten-odd snakes that were growing from the goddess's beautiful silver hair, their respective



eyes. Eyes. Eyes. Eyes.

Their gazes were clearly containing curse.

Just from being stared at, Rokuhara Ren's body stiffened and his legs became heavy.

「Kuh—. Then!」

Ren heightened his magic power to shake off the gaze's curse.

However, the power of Athena who turned into snake goddess had dramatically increased from before. Even his attempt didn't bear fruit. At this rate it felt like he would turn into stone. No, surely it would end like that.

Aegis's lightning strike came when he instinctually felt the danger of petrification.

First she stopped his movement, then she added a lightning speed attack. It was a very logical combo. Ren made a big jump and dodged the lightning.

Without pause he made use of Nemesis's escaping feet and took back steps  
\*Tan, tan, tan!\*

He only moved briefly like that. However, he had returned to the city in that several seconds. From the outskirt to the center of Valencia City, he instantly traveled more than 20 km.

「This area is around the bullring huh.....」

The round stadium that looked like Roma's coliseum.

The city hall and station building nearby were structures that Japanese people would want to call as white palace from their sense. If it was the usual night, then this place would be one of the most bustling neighborhoods in Valencia City.

But there was a storm tonight. There wasn't a single passerby here—no.

Athena was gushing out from the stone paving right in front of him. It was like a grass or tree growing up. Ren was dumbfounded.

「Is that teleportation!?!」

「The current Athena isn't a mere goddess. I am also a great mother earth goddess. As long as you are on a ground, I will instantly sense you no matter where you run to.」

Athena abruptly smiled and stared intently at Ren.

「I can catch up to you by simply focusing like this, as you can see.....」

「Your annoying special skill has increased huh, really!」

He was getting restrained by the eyes of Athena and the snakes once more.

Eye, eye, eye—Ren's body was starting to harden once more. Several lightning attacked him.

「If it's like this then I gotta run at any cost!」

Ren started dashing again with full strength to dodge the lightning strike.

He moved toward Plaza de la Reina that was also a tourist spot. Athena surged out from the ground once more.

Aegis shield was also firing lightning.

He dodged again. This time he headed to the eastern market, the neighborhood where the museum and aquarium were located.

Then, Athena and Aegis appeared again—Ren dodged the barrage of lightning strikes raining down on him while running all over the market.

Harbor. Park. Old town's rampart. Returning to the beach.

Athena and the shield chased him to all the places he headed to.

Ren finally halted his legs and stopped running away.

Rain was pouring down loudly on the sandy beach at night. Of course there wasn't any human presence here. The light of the city could be seen from afar.

「I give up. Looks like it's true that I won't be able to get away.」

「Looks like you have resolved yourself.」

Ren gave up with a smiling face. The snake goddess Athena who was obeyed by the Aegis shield.

They faced each other one on one once more. None of them was concerned with their winged partner. They would immediately rush to their side when it was necessary if it was them.

Of course, Ren's 『I give up』 was just a frivolous talk. Athena should know that too.

Then the rain was also getting gradually weaker before it finally stopped completely. Even though the rain had poured for more than a week already.

Perhaps the rain was overwhelmed by the two's serious atmosphere.

And then a staff appeared in the hand of the great goddess. The tip was decorated with bird wings. It was Athena's favorite weapon.

Right now that staff was thrown toward Ren like a throwing spear!

「Now! It's the war's climax from here, Rokuhara Ren!」

「Then, I'll also get serious. ....Nemesis shall hand down divine punishment toward wrong doing that harm life. May the judgment of justice manifest here

—]

In order to destroy the shield of Aegis that was creating lightning and Athena's whole power——

Ren finally chanted the words of power.

The stock of Retributive Justice had been stockpiled enough from being exposed to lightning attacks thoroughly until now. If the majority of that stock was unleashed all at once, it would be possible to deal a painful blow even toward Athena and Aegis!

The illusion of Goddess Nemesis appeared behind Ren.

A winged beauty with ice blue hair, black mask, and vivid red garment——.

Furthermore, it wasn't just one. There were 24 of them, floating slightly behind Rokuhara Ren. They lined up in a single horizontal line and thrust out both their hands.

Spherical lightning crackled and sparkled inside their hands!

「Eat this full strength of me and Nemesis-san!」

「Bring it on, Rokuhara Ren..... I shall respond to that ardor with my trump card too. For you it should become a shield that surpass Aegis.」

「Eh——!？」

The group of Nemesis behind him unleashed the lightning——just a moment before they did that.

Ren was shocked.





Right in front of Athena who still had a small stature even now that she had become a great goddess, two humans suddenly appeared.

They were a man and a woman who were still young. White ropes—no, silver snakes were entangling their torso as well as both their arms to

restrain them.

It seemed the two of them were unconscious. Their eyes were closed.

It seemed telekinesis or something was holding them in place. They were standing straight like a pole. The man and woman even looked like human pillar. Ren reflexively yelled.

「Cassandra! Julio!」

They were his beloved Troy princess and the youth who was worthy to be called as his best friend even with their short acquaintance.

Ren immediately sent out a thought. I beg you Nemesis-san. Please wait a little bit more for the Retributive Justice.....!

The group of goddesses responded to that thought.

The Retributive Justice lightning strikes were immediately halted.  
However——

The lightning that lost their target exploded in vain in the hands of the group of Nemesis. The shockwave blew away their phantoms!

Furthermore intense lightning was rushing through Rokuhara Ren's from his head until his toes!

The damage of lightning attack that should head toward Athena and Aegis were bounced back to not only the vanishing Nemesis group but also to Ren himself.

「UWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!?!」

Ren screamed and fell.

He was face down on the wet sandy beach and stopped moving.

The pain in his whole body was simply great. He couldn't even guess which of his wounds was serious. But, he was somehow aware that his heart was

almost stopping.

It was a great damage that was unbecoming for an outboxer who was running around with his feet.

Athena looked down at Ren's state and muttered in satisfaction.

「I sensed that it would be very interesting if I can interfere exactly at the moment the karma of the past and the present are manipulated by you using Nemesis's authority. And when I attempted it, it became exactly like I thought. You let your guard down, young godslayer.」

「I, I didn't intend to let my guard down, though.....」

Ren kept lying face down on the wet sandy beach while somehow lifting just his face and neck.

He somehow stared at Athena who was standing leisurely. However his eyes were misty, the goddess within his sight looked completely hazy.

Even so Ren squeezed out a weak voice.

「Cassandra.....foresighted that she and Julio will be attacked. ....I told about that matter to both Julio and the queen already——」

He entrusted the White Queen who was able to fight equally against a god if it was for a short time with the role as bodyguard.

That was why he thought that the danger would approach Cassandra and Julio only after a fierce fighting with all their strength and no one was left to protect the two of them. And yet.....

Then Athena spoke with a voice that was filled with laughter.

「Certainly, there was a heroic female knight beside these two. I would have a really hard time if I opposed her from the front. But Athena is also a god of tactic. Do you think that the snakes serving this me won't be able to do a surprise attack?」

It was a talk that was inappropriate for a courageous war goddess—no. Ren realized.

「Now that you mention it, the wooden horse tactic of Troy is also partly an idea from Athena-san.....」

「Umu. Maneuver and trick are accompaniment of war. I exerted my wisdom and obtained trump card as a queen who manage a whole army. That's all there is to it.」

「You were someone who showed favoritism to even that Odysseus-san after all.....」

The cheater hero Odysseus who was a smart ruffian and a liar.

Perhaps the side of Athena who was also a protector of that kind of fellow should be called as the immeasurable part of Goddess Athena instead.

She was an absurdly powerful enemy. However.

「.....Even so I need to show my spirit and rescue Cassandra and Julio——」

Ren muttered with a trembling voice to encourage himself.

It was fighting spirit that could fire up a godslaying beast's vitality and life force above all else. It was something that he learned before, perhaps from Julio.

However, the goddess's voice gently informed Rokuhara Ren who was like that.

「Enough. Don't force yourself, godslayer..... The youth and Princess Cassandra over there are under my protection. Even though they will be placed in the maelstrom of the world's destruction, I shall make arrangement so that not even a hair of them will be harmed. I swear it on the name of Athena.」

Athena whispered with a delighted smile.



However, it was a sadistic smile that found joy in tormenting an enemy.

「Humans will be necessary again anyway after I destroy this polluted world once. At that time these two will be useful. That's why, you—can stop fighting already.」

「Uwaa. You're really breaking my heart nicely here.....」

To think that she would crush her enemy's fighting spirit by promising her hostage's life.

Athena's talking skill, her bargaining was very clever and nasty. Furthermore Ren's consciousness was starting to turn hazy gradually—

It was at that timing. A thought came from his partner.

(—I'm going there right now, Rokuhara-san!)

「Hou」

The night sky that stopped raining. The golden Yatagarasu was flying to here amidst the dark clouds.

Athena glanced at that and smiled haughtily.

「So she had taken care of my Harpyia. In that case, I have to play my other trump card—the real one.....」

「The, the real trump card!?!」

「Listen to me carefully, o vessel of the end. O all and every kind of disaster, gather. Become my servant and wield your fang and sword for the sake of your new queen!」

Ren heard terribly disquieting words while his consciousness was thinning down.

Athena spoke her command gallantly. She was staring not at Rokuhara Ren anymore but at a spot in the sky.

The dark night sky. The rain had stopped but dark clouds were covering the sky. And then ahead of the great goddess Athena's gaze—a giant door appeared.

A wooden door suddenly appeared out of nowhere in the sky.

It was simply big. It felt like that even monsters from tokusatsu movie—yes, fifty or sixty of that kind of monster would be able to go through the door. The make of the door was simple. It didn't even have a knob.

This door opened with a loud creaking sound by itself.

What flew out from there one after another was truly “monsters”.

「They are what I and Julio saw.....!」

Ren realized while his consciousness was in the verge of cutting off.

A part of Mediterranean Sea that was facing the ancient city Valencia, Valencia Sea. Right now a lot of giant creatures were appearing at the sky above it.

Red, blue, black, green, golden, silver, etc. The color of the dragons was variegated.

A giant beast that looked like whale diving into the sea from the sky, a giant beast that was similar with an elephant—if he remembered correctly Julio called those creatures Leviathan and Behemoth.

In addition, there were even winged giants that looked like angel.

The number of the beasts was several hundred, no, several thousands in total.....

「Riona.....take all my remaining strength——」

「Rest in peace, godslayer.」

\*Zun!\* Ren who was lying face down on the sandy beach felt something cold and hard being swung down to the back of his neck while he finally lost consciousness.

「Oo. You're still hanging on to life even with this. You're tenacious as expected. As I thought, it looks like a worthy finishing strike for the arch-enemy of the gods is also necessary for you.」

While listening to the admiring whisper of Athena.....

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「Rokuhara-san!?!」

Riona soared as Yatagarasu while screaming.

Pain ran on the back of her neck that was transformed into sacred bird. Her spiritual connection with Rokuhara Ren informed her. Athena was swinging down a scythe on the sandy beach below her right now.

The large scythe that resembled the weapon of a god of death was right now heading to her goshujin-sama's neck—.

But, as expected from the flesh of godslayer who wouldn't die even if they were killed.

He still hadn't died completely. Their bond from the authority Contract of Wings was still barely connecting. Of course Athena should be about to deal the finishing blow but—

「I won't let you!」

Riona aka Yatagarasu was overflowing with fighting spirit and power from her whole body.

Just before he went down, her goshujin-sama assigned all his remaining magic power to Riona. This was the effect of that.

Riona swooped down in full power toward the beach where he collapsed.

.....Currently there were an absurdly large giant beast army around her. Dragons of various color and giant angles. Almost all of them had wings and flew in the sky.

Naturally, they stood in the way of Riona=Yatagarasu to hinder her but——

「Don't get in my way! You guys better make way!」

The whole body of Yatagarasu was covered with blue flame. She accelerated while scattering sparks around her.

The beasts who were approaching near were burning with bluish white fire just from touching that spark. They retreated from in front of Riona.

She scattered away the hindrances while accelerating even more——

Riona's speed increased until it rivaled even lightning. She descended toward the beach just like a lightning strike. She hid her goshujin-sama behind her feet.

Also, she planned to crush Athena underfoot with her landing just now if luck permitted. However.

「So you come, bird of fire.」

Athena quickly jumped away and dodged Yatagarasu's feet.

She retreated dozens of meter away with a single leap. As expected from a god, it was a supernatural movement. She nodded with a composed face even after witnessing Riona's descend.

Athena's beautiful silver hair was complemented with more than ten living snakes as accessory.

As expected she wasn't an ordinary opponent. Victory went to the one who made the first move——

「Sacred flame pure and clear! With the purification of fire, all kinds of misfortunes.....」

Riona tried to chant the words of power.

But, Athena spoke faster than her.

「You're too late. You shall depart together with your master. The gate to the country of the dead has opened a long time ago. Set out for the journey of the dead and obtain the final peace in mine territory.....」

「Eh——!?!」

Riona was astonished.

When she noticed a carved seal suddenly appeared at the sandy ground where Yatagarasu's three legs were standing on.

It was a crude line drawing. It had a silhouette like human face, with eyes and nose, along with dozens of snakes drawn in the place of hair——

Of course Riona immediately understood the meaning of this seal.

「This is the portrait of snake goddess Gorgon! The original figure of Athena that she should have, it's truly the divinity of ancient mother earth goddess exactly like what you have obtained——!」

「Fuh. You're sharp just as expected, fire bird girl. Begone together with that pointless wisdom.」

The sandy beach where Yatagarasu was standing on and Rokuhara Ren was lying down.

This area changed color to muddy black, swallowing the living like a bubbling swamp. Meant Riona who transformed into Yatagarasu and the godslayer who was still barely alive.

「O divine spirits of wood, fire, earth, gold, and water, protect me!」

Riona desperately chanted invocation prayer with Yatagarasu's beak.

It was a technique for purifying Athena's divine power. However, it didn't work at all. The sacred bird that was the pride of Japan was sinking into underground together with her goshujin-sama.

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「Umu. With this all obstacle is removed.」

Athena was satisfied looking at the beach that became empty.

After the living spirit godslayer, she also killed Rokuhara Ren. It was the second victory, a decisive one at that. There was already no one on the surface world who could stop the goddess's judgment.

「Let's begin. The great work of the end—destroying the world and creating it anew.」

It was a curse toward the polluted surface, and a blessing toward the new world that would be born before long.

# **Chapter 3 – In the Sea of a Ruined World**

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## Part 1

「Uuuuuh. At this rate it will be the end of line for me and Rokuhara-san and also the world. We're heading full speed ahead to all members annihilated bad end, the final episode of Space Runaway Ideon!」

Riona was in the middle of falling inside the darkness.

The jet black darkness was stretching endlessly—a dark space where the bottom couldn't be seen at all. Riona's body was endlessly falling downward.

Her transformation to Yatagarasu had also already been dispelled. She was falling in her uniformed female student form.

Rokuhara Ren was also falling together with her, but the back of her neck was gouged by the great scythe of the goddess of death. He was even hit by the “rebound” of the failed Retributive Justice.

He wasn't even conscious. He looked just like a corpse when seen from the side.

Her goshujin-sama was at this state, so she couldn't expect anything from him.

Their fate depended on Riona. But, currently she was powerless. Far from flying, she couldn't even float in the air. She was continuously falling into the bottom of the endless darkness.

It seemed her spiritual power and magic power were completely sealed.

「At this rate.....we will arrive at the bottom of naraka!」



Those words weren't just a metaphor, it meant exactly like it sounded. Originally naraka was what they called hell in Sanskrit.

Right after they were defeated by Athena, she they were falling inside this darkness when she noticed.

Dozens of seconds already passed. How many more seconds of free falling would it take until they arrived at the last stop——?

「Or perhaps, I and Rokuhara-san is already dead since a long time ago!?!」

She thought that they would be able to manage somehow because they weren't at the bottom of naraka yet.

But perhaps, they were already smack dab in the middle of the country of the dead=hades, where she and her goshujin-sama was in the middle of tasting an endless hell where they would continue to fall in this dark space for eternity?

Even such doubt was starting to raise its head.

No no, surely that wasn't the case. There was still a chance for a comeback, perhaps! Riona forcefully persuaded herself. And then she thought.

「I, I-I-I-I have to do something somehow! Err, you know, that, aaaaaah, just what can I do in this situationnnnn!?!」

No answer came out. She was getting flustered to the extreme while falling to the bottom of the darkness.

It was an extreme state that was unbecoming for Toba Riona who acted like she was phoenix among humans. Finally the intelligence that she was proud of became malfunctioned.

.....But.

Riona was lucky in just one thing.

Very recently, she received a training where she was getting cornered until the extreme that was similar with this. All her techniques were sealed by the “honorable master” Lu Cuilian and she was forced to chant sutra under a waterfall for several days. It looked like her master wasn’t looking at Riona but she was actually observing her properly.

Her master who was also a godslayer told her disciple, 『Discard your wisdom』 .

And then, if Riona didn’t blank her mind pure white and focused on chanting sutra, a mysterious shockwave would warn her without hesitation.

『Throw away that cleverness deliberately and reach emptiness—the state where you are free from every wisdom and thought.』

『When you can do that, you will advance to the next stage.』

.....

.....

.....

The fear of death and confusion, sense of powerlessness, memory of the waterfall training.

Her thought was washed away by all of those. Right now Riona’s head became pure white. Words were coming out from her mouth naturally.

「Nenpi Kannon Riki—Shuon Shittaisan」

With extreme calmness she chanted a passage of Lotus Sutra that she was harshly made to chant. The meaning was 『Even if you’re in a terrifying battlefield, if you thought of the power of Kannon then all grudges will disperse entirely』 .

Riona’s whole body soon began to shine.

Golden light, the radiance of sacred bird Yatagarasu was overflowing from her body.

It wasn't just light. Riona was using the divine power as Yatagarasu while still in her high school girl form without even transforming.

—I am the bird of fire. Even falling to the country of the dead, I am the immortal spirit of sun—.

Just by holding such confidence, Riona's body floated in the air and stopped falling to the bottom of darkness. In addition she created a force field with her thought that wrapped the unconscious Rokuhara Ren. With this the body of "goshujin-sama" was also floating together with Riona.

「.....I did it.」

Riona was feeling anticlimax instead while muttering.

She didn't think of anything, in addition she let go of all tension and emptied her heart. The instant she reached that state of mind, she could use the divine power of Yatagarasu through her normal body easily.

Even the binding spell that Athena should have applied when she got dropped into hell was easily ignored.

「This is the next stage that honorable master mentioned.....?」

Riona took a deep breath after muttering in astonishment.

In any case she narrowly escaped death.....no. This dark space was a passage that led to hell. If they didn't escape from here quickly, they would lose their life force slowly and ended up dead at the end all the same—.

She somehow guessed that.

Riona looked up to far above her.

She didn't notice until now but, an aurora that was red like fresh blood was covering the sky. It was a coloring that was very eerie and ominous.

She was falling all this time, so she would be able to “go back” if she headed up. That was the theory.

「But, I have a really bad feeling.....」

The curtain of red light was layered up in many layers, covering the whole sky.

It could be said as a grand sight. But, an indescribable desire to avoid it was welling up inside. It looked unpleasant instinctually. Riona decided to head to another direction.

Was this also because of the mental state of emptiness—.

In any case right now she should follow the guidance of her instinct. She honestly thought that.

Then, where should she head to? She couldn't rely on her shikigami like usual. After all Riona's subordinates didn't happen to have the knowledge of how to show the way in the realm of the dead.....

「Stella」

Riona called out to the body of the unconscious Rokuhara Ren.

「Please come out, Stella.」

「Bird girl. It looks like you have broken through a shell.....」

A tiny goddess who was 30 cm tall appeared silently right in front of her.

She floated in the air and stared straight at Riona's face with an unusually impressed look.

「To think that you will even call out to me in the place of the fainted Ren.」

「We're partner who are one in body and soul after all. If I can't at least act as a substitute of my goshujin-sama who is unconscious, that will affect the

good name of Toba Riona-sama. ....Well, that too is because Rokuharasan is still somehow hanging on to his life though.」

「That's right! Heal Ren quickly bird girl!」

Stella seemed to remember the emergency situation. She suddenly yelled in excitement.

「At this rate, everything will be over!」

「I very much want to do just that but, first we have to escape from this straight path to the realm of the dead. Even if I do my best to give treatment in this road to Hades, our destination will still be hell.」

Stella's face was anxious. Riona turned a gaze of expectation toward her.

「Goddess Aphrodite is also similar to Athena. Your divinity is related to an ancient great goddess. Can't you find an escape path to the surface in a flash?」

「Nnn.....straight above is no good. That way is an entrance to another realm of the dead I think.」

「I also sensed that. Any other way?」

「Now see here. Even I have lost many powers after becoming one with Ren. Can you not ask too much from me?」

「.....Seriously?」

「Yes, seriously.」

In the end, the two of them sighed 「Haaa」 together.

Riona grumbled from having her expectation betrayed.

「I had the feeling that we could manage somehow if I call Stella out but.....ah. Could it be, this is just maybe! Let's use the Circle of Friendship, Stella!」

Toba Riona had arrived at a higher stage.

That's right. Even if her partner was unconscious, she was able to wield his authority as a proxy if it was just a little bit. That was why she was also able to summon Stella.

The minimum goddess in question scowled toward Riona's entreaty.

「You yourself had said it just now, this place is right in the middle of the road to Hades you know? No one will come even if we call out.....」

「We have nothing to lose by trying, anyway just try it.」

「It can't be helped. ....Please come, o my friend of foreign country who I still haven't met yet!」

The little goddess of love chanted the words of power without motivation.

Her small and cute waist band shined in rose color. After waiting for a while, the helper who was lightly drifting toward them was a character who was just as Riona expected.

『.....Young ladies, are you two calling for me?』

「We have been waiting, John-san!」

「So that's how it is! Uncle, can you listen to our request!? We want you to guide us until the surface!」

It was a monk wearing a hooded cloak. However he was a ghost.

It was the prophet John who they encountered on their way returning home from mythological world Hyperborea. A traveler of the diverse worlds who appeared even inside the space distortion.

If it was him then even the escape path from the path to Hades was most likely——

『Please follow behind me.』

It seemed he knew the path. The prophet easily acquiesced to them.

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## Part 2

Relying on the guidance of the prophet John, they drifted in the dark space for a while.

The darkness that felt like it would continue forever suddenly ended. Riona and Stella, the unconscious Rokuhara Ren, and then the ghost of John was——

\*Splash!\* They were suddenly thrown out to the sea.

「Wah, salty! Isn't this sea water!?!」

「Pu, pull Ren out of the sea quickly, bird girl! He will drown at this rate!」

Riona immediately transformed into the sacred bird Yatagarasu.

She swiftly changed into the giant body with wing length of around twenty meter.

She also took in goshujin-sama and Stella into her body and flapped powerfully——she rushed from the stormy sea to the cloudy sky.

「This is.....!?!」

Of course sea was spreading below them.

However the sea surface was billowing heavily, it was clearly looking like there would be giant tsunami——.

Furthermore, it seemed this area was an urban area. Clusters of high-rise buildings were swallowed by waves many times over and washed away.



One of the buildings was one that even Riona remembered seeing before.

「No matter how I see it that's the Empire State Building, One World Trade Center.....don't tell me this is New York!?!」

A new tsunami came.

The group of buildings with height that was over 500 meter was swallowed by sea water once more. This time the water didn't recede back anymore.

Right now New York's skyscrapers were completely submerged underwater.

Riona surveyed the direction that seemed to be the west with Yatagarasu's eyes and felt dumbfounded.

The horizon—its line was covered with blazing crimson flame. It was a great fire that was unleashed in order to scorch the whole world into ash.

「Destruction.....by water and fire.....」

The words that Athena spoke several times. It seemed Apollo also mentioned the same thing.

Riona witnessed another unbelievable scene. When she strained her eyes and focused, it flew into the sight of Yatagarasu who could see through until a hundred ri ahead.

The people who were swallowed by the flood was dissolving in that instant—.

Even the people who were swallowed by the world-destroying conflagration were evaporating instantly as expected—.

First the former. Their whole body turned loose like amoeba. It looked like they transformed into an existence of indeterminate shape that somehow had human-like contour, and then they assimilated with water.

And then the latter. When fire caught a part of their body, they immediately evaporated and reduced into smoke and vapor.

They weren't writhing in agony underwater, they also weren't suffering in anguish from flame heat. They were annihilated in the speed of blinking eye.

Like this there was no rescuing them or treating them.....!

Riona felt fear. If fire or water arrived, then it was the end already.

Then, how could they make it in time? While the destruction of water and fire still hadn't reached—

Riona impulsively raised her altitude. She rapidly rushed through the grey sky. However there wasn't any cloud anywhere.

The color of the sky itself was gloomy and changing into dark grey color.

Even the sun and the moon and the stars couldn't be seen.

Riona=Yatagarasu intently climbed up amidst that.

Originally, first there would be the wall of stratosphere that had ozone, then next there would be atmosphere of low temperature that reached until minus 100 degree obstructing the way, and after that there should be atmosphere that reached tremendous heat from receiving the sun's electromagnetic wave which assaulted any flying object.

But there wasn't any such change of atmospheric temperature. There was only the dark grey space stretching on.

The end of the world transformed even the state of the earth's inner atmosphere.

Altitude 200 km—300, 400, 500. Riona=Yatagarasu continued ascending intently.

Before long, she reached until the same altitude where reconnaissance satellite and the like were in position.

Riona turned her gaze to the earth surface through the eyes of Yatagarasu. She was looking down on the “mother earth” from the viewpoint of god and despaired.

「I can't believe it.....」

Riona could do nothing but felt shocked.

Seventy percent of earth was blue. However there was no brown or green color that denoted the land. They had been swallowed by tsunami and sunk into the sea.

And then, the remaining thirty percent was red.

The area where the seawater still hadn't reached was burning.

While the “blue” that denoted sea water was spreading, the red stains that meant annihilation of fire were disappearing in spots. The “red” was vanishing bit by bit.

Everything—the whole earth was turning blue.

『It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. The cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, and the idolaters will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death..... Oo, the time of judgment is finally approaching—』

It was the whisper of the prophet John.

She didn't notice but, he was floating right beside Yatagarasu's face all this time. He was quietly watching the scene of the end of the world.

The time of judgment. That was right. The prophecy in the Revelation mentioned that this wasn't the final conclusion.

Riona thought dimly.

However, she was unable to think of anything more than that.

She maintained the form of Yatagarasu with a force of habit while staring at the whole destroyed world in a dumbfounded state from the exo-atmosphere without doing anything else.

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## Part 3

「This is a nice view. My ambition is done with this.」

The smile of accomplishment was tugged on Athena's lips.

She was looking out over the ocean from her vantage point on a precipitous cliff. Everywhere was filled with the blue sea water, there wasn't any land at all until the end of the horizon.

The only exception was here, the land where Athena was standing on.

It was a small island. However, it was one of the scarce lands that remained in the world. Even if one searched to every corner of this sea, they wouldn't be able to find anything except a handful of small islands.

「Fufufufu, I wonder how long it has been since my heart feel this clear?」

Athena finally smiled a smile of gratification.

She suddenly lifted up her gaze. The very depressing deep gray sky was spreading there. It had been like this since the end of the world began. It should be time soon—.

Athena whispered.

「Let there be light. I allow it.」

The color of the sky instantly turned bright.

First it became azure color as though the sky had just welcomed the sunrise. Then rose color was gradually mixing in.

The azure color and rose color were mixing in complicated pattern.....it was the sky of dawn. However, there was no sun that should be visible at the eastern horizon.

It still wasn't in the stage where the light of dawn was granted.

It would be at the juncture when the curtain of the new world was finally opened—.

Athena was satisfied. However, the world that should be quiet became slightly noisy. The humans noticed the change.

「The sky is bright.....」

「Oh god, thank you.....」

「How beautiful——」

Sigh of admiration came out from their mouths.

Everyone was completely ordinary human.

Actually, around 70-80 humans were gathered some distance away from the cliff where Athena was standing. They were cowering. Their only possession was the ragged clothes on their body and nothing else. The gaze on their exhausted face was vacant—.

There were only rugged rocks and sandy soil on this island. Even grass didn't grow at all.

They were left alone in an extremely dreary place until now.

The tsunami and fire that cleansed the polluted surface. These people survived that baptism—no, Athena personally allowed these people to survive.

She carefully selected only those who possessed extraordinary virtue and piouness.

Their race, birthplace, age, and also gender were all over the place. But, every single one of them was faithful man and woman who was worthy for the coming new world.

However, there was just one exception that could be called as unique mixed among them.

The youth who couldn't be fitted into the framework of pious and virtuous person due to his excellent intellect and composure, it was Julio Blandelli.

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The jacket that he wore was completely worn out. He himself was also tired.

Even so Julio Blandelli held on to his aristocratic air and powerful gaze while sitting down on a rocky place.

「So the light return to the world although it's only slightly. ....As expected.」

「Julio-sama.」

Cassandra who was sitting beside him spoke to him.

「Does this mean, that it's just as Julio-sama predicted a little while ago?」

「Yeah. —Ragnarok of Norse mythology. Revelation of the New Testament. The legend of the end in the Old Testament. Most of them isn't concluded with just the collapse of the world. In a sense, after the destruction is the main event—the start of the creation of the new world.」

Julio lowered his voice and talked quickly.

「After the world that is reduced to only sea recovered its light completely, most likely the land will also increase little by little. Before long plants and animals will also—」

「Come to think of it, the same thing also happened in Hyperborea!」

Cassandra gasped.

「Land will be produced by the death of the sacrificed animal in the sea!」

「I think that similar type of supernatural phenomenon will also occur here. The only reason I can think of why human race is kept alive even if only a few of them is only to build a new world. But, in order to increase the population, this number of people is a little bit undependable——」

The number of survivor with them didn't even reach a hundred.

Julio was bothered with that. he began to mutter in deliberation.

「Does Athena think that it's fine for the number of mankind survivor to be few as long as the preservation of species can be done? If she give the blessing of mother earth goddess then she can increase the number as she like later. Or perhaps, there will be a phase of judgment and revival of the destroyed mankind just like in the Revelation..... The people gathered here are just her protecting those who caught her eye.....」

He had no intention at all to let other people listen. He was simply talking to himself.

Julio was engrossed in his thought while muttering. It was Julio's usual habit. However, in this extreme situation where there was nothing more that can be done except to despair——

He suddenly stopped muttering.

「Julio-sama?」

「No. I think that no matter what happen after this, there isn't any meaning to think deeply about it.」

As expected even he was extremely exhausted mentally.

He desperately tried to get a hold on himself strongly until now, but his limit would arrive soon. That was why this kind of words rushed out of his mouth.



「Most likely both Ren and Riona had also died in battle.....」

Actually Julio and Cassandra had been unconscious all the time.

It was still a day after they woke up on this barren island. When they realized, they were sleeping among people who looked haggard due to the world's destruction.

Originally they should gather information about the confrontation that should have ended while they were sleeping. What kind of conclusion resulted from the battle between Athena and Rokuhara Ren.

Just a little while ago, the goddess in question unexpectedly came to the island.

Even now she was standing aloofly at some distance away. The pitiful humans were overwhelmed by her extraordinary divinity and could only steal glances secretly at the goddess from afar.

However, if it was the high rank magician Julio and a legendary royalty like Cassandra then.....

If only they could resolve themselves, they would be able to talk to Athena as much as they liked. They were unable to do so because of a fear that was hard to wipe away inside them.

If they heard about Rokuhara Ren's death from the goddess's mouth.....

That fear gnawed at Julio's heart bit by bit. In addition Cassandra was also immersed in grief. She looked down while tears gathered in her eyes—

「Ah」

She suddenly raised her face. She spoke with a trembling voice.

「Julio-sama. ....There is still hope remaining.」

「What are you saying? Enough with the consolation. Don't you think that such joke is foolish!？」

Julio was offended by Cassandra's remark. His voice was rough.

But, he immediately noticed. The intelligent expert of sorcery who was always level and calm. Exactly because of that he returned to his sense with a gasp and recalled.

The curse that was applied to the Troy princess—.

No matter how many prophecy she made, no one was unable to believe her words.

The irritation and distrust that were welling up inside Julio's hear right now, could it be..... On the other hand, Princess Cassandra wasn't shirking from her friend's scolding and smiled slightly.

「Forgive me. I'm unable to learn what kind of fate that Ren-sama and Riona-sama met but, a certain scene—the whereabouts of a left behind hope has certainly came to me.」

「.....Got it. That's why, don't say anymore than that.」

Julio insisted with a really bitter expression.

「Even though I want to praise you in my head, my heart is rejecting that. This kind of inconsistent feeling is like a torture. Give me a bit of time to calm down.」

「My」

Cassandra stared smilingly at the talented man who was obsessive about logic and reason before—

Cassandra boldly walked toward the great goddess. She finally wrung out the courage to face Athena thanks to her premonition.

She swore she would ask about her beloved godslayer no matter what. However.

Athena who had been gazing to the sea all this time suddenly turned around and directed her beautiful face toward the humans. She threw them a chilly gaze.

Right after that——

The children of man turned into unspeaking stone statues with no exception.

Their whole body was reduced into completely stiff cold stone in the same posture when they stared at the goddess.

The eyes of Athena who turned into snake goddess were the same with the evil eyes of Gorgon=Medusa.

All creation would turn to stone just from her sight. Something like less than a hundred human were driven into “temporary death” easily.

Of course, Julio and Cassandra weren’t excluded.

「To make a ruckus in front of the dawn of new world..... What a noisy bunch. The turn of you humans will come soon. Sleep there until then.」

Athena spoke carelessly.

The humans had gone past the stage of crying and screaming in this end of the world and stayed depressed all this time.

But with the sky starting to get bright, they suddenly started to whisper with each other and talked. Just like Julio and Cassandra.

Athena whimsically used Gorgon’s evil sight in order to quiet them down.

However——

The goddess’s word didn’t reach the petrified humans. Far from looking and hearing, they couldn’t even think anymore as a stone statue.

Even the high ranked magician Julio was like that.

But, just one person, only the princess of Troy who was related with the bloodline of god had postponement.

(No good—. At this rate, I'll fall asleep.....)

She couldn't move a single finger. Cassandra had turned into a beautiful stone statue. She was petrified exactly at the time when she started walking toward Athena.

Her consciousness was getting farther. Her sight was also getting dark.

Even so she somehow kept her heart strong and wasn't imprisoned by the binding spell of stone. On the other hand, Athena muttered without knowing about such strenuous effort of the Troy princess.

「Now then—. As expected even I am exhausted from accomplishing the great undertaking of purifying the surface. Let's take rest for a while. Even god has time when they need to sleep. Mortal children of man, wait obediently until I'm awake.」

Of course, the petrified humans couldn't give any answer.

Not just their mouth, even their ears and eyes were sealed. But, in the first place Athena didn't expect any conversation from them.

In the end this was like telling her own thought to a herd of cattle.

Even Cassandra who possessed outstanding disposition more than the rest was already at the limit. She was about to yield to the irresistible drowsiness.

But, at the very least before that—

(Ren-sama! Please be safe somehow!)

With her fading consciousness, she wished from the bottom of her heart for the survival of the godslayer she loved.

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## Part 4

The gaze of Riona who became Yatagarasu swept through the whole earth from far above.

The third planet of the solar system that was ball shaped—. Originally it should have night side and noon side coexisting together.

However right now the whole planet was dark like at night.

Even though the sun existed 150 million kilometer away, its light didn't reach.

Earth right now was a territory where common sense and law of physics didn't work anymore.

Even so the eyes of Yatagarasu who was a spirit of sun didn't have any problem with darkness.

She went around the blue planet several times and took an extensive view of the lower world—she became very despondent.

Riona wandered the high altitude alone while sighing.

The blue planet floating within the black space that was photographed from satellite, right now she was looking down at the same thing with her own eyes. However.

「There is only sea no matter where I go. As for land, I can only find the sea ice of Arctic Ocean and Antarctica.....」

There was only the deep blue color that denoted sea extending as far as the eye could see.

But only the area near the north and south poles had white color that denoted land ice and sea ice. However the size was really small compared to the satellite photo that Riona saw in the past.....

Before long, a change happened on the blue globe.

The whole planet was—suddenly turning bright.

White swirl, in other words clouds were also forming gradually here and there.

Perhaps some kind of change occurred on the surface. Riona in her Yatagarasu form rapidly dropped her altitude.

.....When she returned to inside earth's atmosphere, the color of the sky was strange.

The color of azure and rose mixed with each other. The sky of dawn was continuing forever.

But, the light of dawn that should be visible at the eastern sky couldn't be seen no matter where she flew. She was unable to even find a trace of sun's halo.

「Is the first sunrise of the year still being postponed.....」

Riona broke through a white sea of clouds while descending.

As expected she was exhausted. She wanted a place to rest somewhere. However there was no land on the surface that turned completely into sea.

—After flying around for very long distance, she finally discovered a small island.

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「Rokuhara-san, he looks like he is really dead.....」

「He is already seriously wounded, and yet his treatment is also ended up really late. Honestly speaking, it's really suspicious whether he will be able to wake up again.....」

「Ste, Stella? Your mood is really different from usual you know!？」

Riona was panicked from Stella's crestfallen muttering.

She was together with the small goddess who was her only comrade right now beside Rokuhara Ren who was lying down face up. The place was a lonely small island with only rock around.

Tentatively, there was also a sandy beach beside the sea although it was small.

Riona dispelled her transformation as soon as she landed there and brought out goshujin-sama and Stella outside.

She took out the charm of healing that she also used in Troy and put it into her mouth. Without hesitation she moved it mouth to mouth into Rokuhara Ren and poured miraculous effect into his body.

Even Stella who was usually annoying was watching with a solemn face.

After waiting for a while, the external wound that the godslaying youth bore—his gouged neck was reasonably closed. Injuries like burn and scratch were also cleanly healed.

However Rokuhara Ren didn't show any sign of waking up at all.

His breathing and also the beating of his heart were still stopping. When she opened his closed eyes, she could see that his eye pupils were also open. It was the same like a corpse.

Even so Stella was well. In that case they could expect that there was still a spark of life remaining and yet—

「Actually, bird girl. It feels like I'm also nearing my limit.....」

「Ple, please don't report something like that with that grave tone. I'll become alone in this destroyed world like that!」

Riona spoke a weak complaint which was rare coming from her.

Stella wasn't even amused by that and smiled just a little with a gaunt face. She nodded to her to cheer her up.

「Well, no matter what happen, stay strong..... I also happen to have an idea about someone who can help, more or less, so I'll try to call her as farewell gift——」

「Stella!?!」

「Come, o sworn friend of goddess. Right now is the time to reply to your alliance with the queen of Cyprus.....」

Stella chanted with a tired voice. Her waist band shined in rose color.

However, that too was only for an instant. The 30 cm small goddess's adorable figure faded and disappeared right away.

The goddess of beauty and love Aphrodite, the partner who became one with Rokuhara Ren.

Riona who witnessed her disappearance was speechless.

「No way.....」

「Oo. So you are safe, firebird witch.」

「!?!」

Called by someone, Riona hurriedly turned around.

The owner of the gallant voice and a beautiful face. Straddling a white horse, the figure of the knight equipped with chainmail, round shield, and long spear belonged to an old acquaintance.



「Queen! So you're also alright!?!」

Julio's protector knight the White Queen.

Riona's eyes shined from their reunion. But, the queen smiled wryly with a bitter look. She let out a sigh in exhaustion.

「About that, I don't know if you can call me alright..... While the world was going to ruin, I fought the thousand of dragons repeatedly while continuing to escape from the advancing fire and flood.」

「That must be hard.....」

「Umu. I ended up more worn out than going through a hundred wars.....」

The queen's helmet was painted white like her attire.

However, it was dirty all over with gray dust. She took off that helmet,

「No matter what you and Rokuhara Ren are going to do after this, right now I'm too exhausted. In order to preserve my remaining strength, I'll change my form. Don't wake me up no matter what until it's time where you two really need me. Do you understand?」

「Eeh!?!」

In front of the surprised Riona——

The white female knight and her horse suddenly vanished. In exchange a single long spear rolled on the ground. Its blade was chipped and scratched all over.

「Queen! Queen! Even you is leaving me all alone!?!」

Riona picked up the steel spearhead while getting a bit tearful.

There was no reply. The transformed body of the White Queen didn't respond at all. Even though she held hope that it would converse with her

like a magical weapon with independent will—.

Riona became alone again.

Beside her there was only Rokuhara Ren who was lying down powerlessly.

He was the same like a corpse no matter how she looked at him from the side. Even when she inspected him, she could only think of dead body. The small goddess Stella had also vanished so as expected.....

『Say, young lady.』

「That's right! I still have John-san with me!」

Riona rejoiced that someone talked to him.

Even when she went out of earth's atmosphere, the ghost of the prophet John was accompanying her. Of course, he was nothing more than a “kind ghost” who they met by chance. He had no strong bond with them. But, Riona who was quickly assaulted by loneliness and despair turned a wide smile toward him.

「Let's overcome this pinch together! Do you have some kind of advice for me!?!」

『No..... I'm also nearing my limit. After flying around together with you to watch the end of the world fully, I got unexpectedly worn out.....』

「Uwah. Even John-san is following that pattern!?!」

The prophet Jon who looked like a monk in pilgrimage with the hooded cloak he wore.

He smiled with the face of a kind old man. He told her calmly.

『But, let me answer your wish at the very least. —Be careful of the 《vessel》 in the goddess's possession. And then, search for a shining sword.....』

「I take back my words! Please stay together with me rather than giving advice!」

『Farewell, o chosen one.....』

Thus the prophet's ghost also vanished.

Riona's shoulders slumped in dejection. She sat down on the ground weakly.

She looked up to the sky in a daze. Azure color and rose color mixed together. The cloud shined gold as though morning sun was bathing it with light. It was truly the sky of dawn.

But—there wasn't any sign of sun rising at all.

「This is the world after human instrumentality project is put into action.....wait, I see.」

Riona hung her head down while gloomily thinking back.

「If the time of judgment is coming like John-san said, the main event of the end of the world will be from here. There is no knowing what kind of change will happen to the state of heaven and earth too. Just because it looks like the world has calmed down a bit, I can't be optimistic—」

After that, she stared at the sleeping youth once more.

She didn't feel any breathing even when she touched his lips. She couldn't feel any pulse even when she took his wrist. Godslayer Rokuhara Ren was dead no matter how she looked at it.

Yes—. It was already fine to conclude so at this time.

He was without a doubt dead. However, but, exactly because of that.

「Someone who will obediently die just because they're killed.....won't be fit to be a godslayer. At the very least while I'm alive, I'll have you reign as the great demon king of the century!」

Even the youth who was that easygoing was only lying down on his back in vain right now.

Now that it was like this, she had to realize the demon king revival even if she had to risk her everything. Riona took off the blazer of her uniform together with her determination.

She became completely naked, then she stripped him from his clothes.

For now she left only his trouser and stripped bare Rokuhara Ren's upper body. A body that was slender as well as muscular came into view.

Riona lied on top of him. She kissed him, plugging his lips.

This was the beginning of the demon king's revival ceremony.

「The secret ritual <sup>Reviving the Dead</sup> 《Hangon》 to call back the dead from underground spring. Abe no Seimei was able to do it, so there is no way that Toba Riona can't do it——」

Her lips separated from the cold lips of her master and whispered quietly.

At the time when she still didn't know that Rokuhara Ren was a godslayer.

Riona jumped to a hasty conclusion that he was dead when he was in a coma. She thought of it while giving up doing treatment. Even for a great onmyouji like her, Hangon was the only magic that she shouldn't do. Because it was a spell that wasn't permitted for human.

However right now Riona broke that ban intentionally instead.

「How can the partner of a man who killed even the god is getting cold feet from a taboo of this level!」

Riona kissed him once more in order to breath the spell through mouth.

A kiss with a corpse. The sensation of cold lips wasn't as bad as she anticipated.

「I humbly wish to the great god of the realm of the dead. Grant your mercy, grant your blessing..... I humbly wish to Saki-Mitama and Kushi-Mitama. Grant your protection, grant your salvation.....」

She chanted the spell verse and separated their lips to take a breath.

But, she immediately resumed the kiss and breathed in the onmyoudo spell she kneaded into the godslayer's body. She repeated that and kissed him over and over.

「Come back, Rokuhara Ren——!」

Riona gave her devotion as his retainer while ordering like a queen.

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## Part 5

—I might have died.

Rokuhara Ren was walking while carefreely thinking that.

He headed toward a small river that was flowing through a beautiful green plain. The river's width wasn't that wide. The water was also really clear that the gravel at the bottom of the river could be seen clearly.

However, the other side of this beautiful river was darkness.

Nothing existed, there was only darkness spreading at the other side of the small river.

There was redness that was subtly coloring this darkness. That also made him felt how sinister it was.

It would be the end if he stepped into there—. Ren somehow understood that. And yet, his legs were walking ahead on their own.

「So it's finally time to depart to that world. Thinking back it was a short life.」

He talked like it was other people's matter while arriving until right beside the river.

Also, for some unknown reason his clothes were gone. His upper body was naked and he was only wearing a trouser. He also had no shoes and walked with bare feet.

「Well, I'm going to cross a place that look like Sanzu River, this must be something like that.」

Ren didn't feel anything out of place from his own appearance while taking a philosophic view. His feet were still moving on their own—\*splash-\*

With a splashing sound, Ren's right foot entered the river.

The back of his foot felt the sensation of stepping on pebbles. The water of the river was awfully warm. Ren even felt pleasant. It was then.

「You must not, Ren-sama!」

「So you also come, Cassandra.」

The princess of Troy suddenly came into being and hugged him from behind.

She exerted all her strength to drag away Ren from the small river. However, Ren's body didn't move back at the slightest. Far from that his feet were advancing for two, three steps—

\*Splash, splash, splash\*

He stepped on the bottom of the river without problem and walked toward the other side of the bank.

「This is where you have to endure! Please Ren-sama, stand still!」

Cassandra held him back from behind.

The sensation of voluptuous breasts that he had caressed many times over was conveyed to his back. Ren was continuing walking in a posture of carrying her on his back.

But he put all the kindness he could muster into his voice and told the lover on his back.

「You can't come, Cassandra. You will die too if you cross this river.」

「Exactly! This is the Styx River that is flowing at the bottom of earth-. It's the afterlife, that's why Ren-sama, please return to the land!」

Cassandra raised her voice further.

「Besides, I obtained a prophecy! The time when the daughter of Zeus is taking rest is our remaining hope!」

「Remaining hope. Somehow it sounds good for a title of a movie. But」

Ren casually replied with a voice that lacked tension.

「I think it's already impossible for me..... Looks like this is around the right time for me.」

「Are you going to depart alone, leaving me behind!?!」

「If I can take you along then of course I'll want to be together with you forever. But, if I do that then Cassandra will go to that world.」

「Ren-samaaa」

Cassandra called his name with a tearful voice. This time she went around to in front of Ren.

Mysteriously, the princess who descended from the bloodline of god was floating in the air. She was doing the same thing like the prophet John.

Ren finally—stopped walking.

His feeling toward Cassandra filled his chest that his legs naturally stopped.

But, he couldn't get into the feeling of returning to the bank. Even though he was cherishing and loving her this much like this.

Ren kissed Cassandra's tearful cheek and whispered into her ear.

「Don't cry. You can't let Athena's oath to let you live no matter what to go to waste.」

「I, don't want to live without Ren-sama!」



「I wish you won't say something like that. If you like me then all the more so.」

「Ren-samaaa.....ah」

This time Ren cut off her words with a kiss to the lips. He smiled at her.

「Now go. Please look after Julio too. That guy looks like he is reliable but there are some places where he is a handful after all.」

「I, I refuse-. If Ren-sama isn't together with me then—oh?」

「Eh?」

Ren and Cassandra were suddenly pulled backward.

Something like an invisible telekinesis was carrying Ren. It felt like he was pulled out from the river's stream and tossed to the riverbank—.

When he noticed, Ren's body was thrown at the small river's bank. What's more.

「Aah, Ren-sama!」

Cassandra vanished with the same suddenness like when she appeared.

Ren didn't understand what was going on and felt bewildered.

「What is going on.....?」

The sky was madder red. He guessed that it was evening.

Right now Rokuhara Ren was on the grass growing near the river. He was lying down on his back while looking up to the sky. Right above him, furthermore it was above his waist, a girl suddenly appeared. This time it wasn't Cassandra—

「Eh, Riona?」

「That's right, goshujin-sama. It looks like your lingering attachment to Princess Cassandra or something was slowing your departure to that world. Thanks to that I was able to rush here barely in time.」

Riona appeared in the shape of straddling Ren's waist.

Unbelievably she was naked—not a single string on her body. That was why he could clearly see Riona's slenderness.

Her white soft skin was glittering as though bursting with youth. There was practically no useless meat clinging on her body. But, although her breasts were moderate but they were bulging up firmly.

They were like beautiful hills. Even the pink nipples on the tips were extremely lovely.

The line around her stomach and navel, her waist was very sensual, furthermore that slenderness reminded him of the beauty of a girl of a risky age. It even felt slightly immoral. The part from below that also had thin hair like green grass which made that feeling to be even stronger.

Riona could transform into bird and became covered with feathers. However her body hair was really thin it seemed.

A girl this beautiful was straddling Rokuhara Ren's waist in her birthday suit. She was looking down on Ren's face without blinking with the haughtiness of a queen.

「It's pointless even if you resist.」

Riona smiled and told him pompously.

「Rokuhara-san right now is under my spell. You are in the middle of getting affected by Hangan spell, so it's impossible for you to shake it off with brute force.」

「You're right」

The body of Ren from his waist below became unable to even twitch.

With this he also couldn't overturn this mount position. But, what was the reason she started doing this——?

When Ren was feeling dubious, Riona suddenly took Ren's right hand.

「How is it, Rokuhara-san?」

「Riona's body, it's warm.」

Ren's right hand was guided to her stomach.

A warm sensation was transmitted to his palm. No, Riona's knees and the inner side of her slender thighs were holding Ren's sides from left and right, so it was also warm there from the human skin.

For some reason right now Ren wasn't wearing any other clothes than his trouser.

Riona shared her warmth with the dying Rokuhara Ren while speaking to him condescendingly.

「That world, the realm of the dead is a world of winter where there is only cold. If it's now, perhaps you're still able to return to the world of the living where there is warmth. That's why! Show your guts and return to where I am, Rokuhara Ren!」

「Hmmmm, but you see」

「Your reaction, it's flat-!?!」

「Don't wanna.....I had done my best until now to prevent the destruction of the world but, looks like the world is destroyed already. Athena has also sworn that she will protect Julio and Cassandra no matter what, so it got me thinking that perhaps there isn't any need for me to do my best anymore——」

「Please don't think that! There is still me at the world of the living!」

「Then you can just go to Athena's place. You can ask the great goddess to protect you along with Cassandra and Julio.」

「This isn't a joke!」

Riona straddled Ren while speaking.

「I have no intention of dying until I read the last chapter of Glass Mask! That's why there is no way I can let earth civilization get destroyed-. I even secretly learned Hangan spell to resurrect the author if push comes to shove and prepared so I can use it any time!」

「And you used that on me at this eleventh hour?」

Ren was deeply impressed.

「You really don't know what will be useful in life huh.....」

「But Hangan spell is really difficult even for a great onmyouji like me, the success rate of this secret ritual is largely depending on luck. The will of Rokuhara-san to live is also greatly affecting it.」

「Then, I already have enough. I'll retire here——」

「Eei, you don't know when to give up-」

「It's the opposite, the opposite. This is where you say that I know when to give up isn't it? .....No, in the first place I'm already dead, so it doesn't matter whether I give up or not.」

「What's more you're still talking back non-stop. ....Very well. Then I'll make a special suggestion.」

The stark naked Riona spoke with a smug look.

「I don't mind to give "reward" like this sometimes. That's why, let's work hard together with me at the post-world destruction earth!」

「Reward?」

「Yes, like showing my bare skin like this, or giving a kiss.....」

「Riona.」

Ren unconsciously became serious faced and spoke to this condescending queen.

「Frankly speaking, I'm not someone so inexperienced with girls that I'll just say yes when asked to do my best for just that much. Your suggestion doesn't really strike home with me.」

「Heh?」

「Saying this myself is weird but, I can procure that kind of thing relatively easily by myself so, you know.」

「Nnnaa, now that you mention it!」

Riona was greatly perplexed by Ren's calm retort.

「Rokuhara-san has this frivolous man attribute that is unbecoming for a protagonist isn't it!」

「Hahaha, right right.」

「Bu, but still. It's also weird for me to say this myself but, I'm a really lovely and beautiful girl right? Don't you want to do nice thing with that kind of girl? Aren't you feeling worldly desires or attachment to live suddenly welling up with the horny feeling——」

Ren made a carefree smile. Riona desperately pressed on.

「Frankly speaking, I took off my clothes with the intention to take advantage of that. If it's necessary I even plan to go all in with the mentality of female actress that won't balk at doing bedroom scene.....」

「Is that so. You're really thinking strange things.」

「You're completely apathetic instead!?!」

「No, you see. Serious relationship, affair, casual sex, more than friend but less than lover—I have experienced various relationship with woman and in the end of that this is what I think.」

Ren spoke admonishingly toward the genius girl who was very immature in the aspect of romance.

「As I thought at the end it's love that's important.」

「Love!? Even though you are a frivolous man, that's just not you Rokuhara-san!」

「No. It's really important, love. I noticed it in these several years but, I'm not bothered with a woman's personality or look you know? What's important is just how serious the feeling that they're directing toward me—depending on that it make me want to answer back their feeling too, something like that.」

「I, if it's like that doesn't that mean even an abnormally clingy stalker woman isn't a problem for you!?!」

「Yep yep. I have never gone as far as going out with them but, occasionally I also encountered that kind of person when I was in Japan. I tried calling out to one when they were peeking into the mail box of my apartment.」

Rokuhara Ren had confidence in his communication ability.

After socializing with various man and woman, his self-awareness had budded when he noticed. That it seemed he was just really weak against those who were 『serious』 .

If someone came on him with seriousness, then it would make him wanted to return back the same amount of seriousness or even more.

「Of course Riona is the best partner I can ask but, it's not like our relationship is one where we direct love at each other seriously. That's why something like seduction doesn't really strike ho——」

「Please wait a second.」

Riona gasped in realization and cut him off.

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## Part 6

「Just now.....I have an objection toward the remark just now.」

Riona spoke in hesitation.

「Even I, is quite conscious toward Rokuhara-san. ....I even did ni, night crawling.」

「But that was because of Nike-san's authority connected you with me right?」

Athena's subordinate god, the winged goddess Nike.

The authority he usurped from her was the Contract of Wings. Toba Riona became Ren's retainer because of its effect and attained dramatic power up.

But, the backlash from that made her sought a strong connection with Ren.

At times like when they traveled Sanctuary Midgard, she would slip into Ren's bed frequently. She did it unconsciously like someone sleepwalking.

However, now that she mentioned it Ren noticed. After they returned from Midgard and at Hyperborea, there was practically no night crawling from her—.

Because of that he was able to flirt with Cassandra frequently.....

Riona was still straddling above Rokuhara Ren. Her posture was very provocative, but her expression looked terribly embarrassed.

「Yes. I seek a deep connection with my master as a retainer. Driven by such impulse, I sneaked into Rokuhara-san's room night after night. But, I became scared—from the middle I paid a lot of attention so that I don't do



it anymore. I put several locks on my room's door, I put a charm of binding on myself before sleeping.」

「Scared?」

「I thought that if I kept being like that, I might fall in love with Rokuhara-san.....」

Riona finally looked downward.

But, Ren who was in a position of looking up at her right from below saw clearly. The genius girl who was always acting like a queen was biting her lips with a very embarrassed look and teary eyes.

And then her white naked body turned bright red from her face until her toes. It must be because of her shame too.

And then Ren spoke earnestly.

「Feeling scared to fall in love with other people, that's like an elementary school before their puberty.....」

「I, it can't be helped! Something like this, it's the first time for me!」

「I made my first girlfriend when I was at kindergarten you know? I think the first time I was in a serious relationship was when I was in sixth grade of elementary school——」

「I, I don't want to hear any talk about other woman in your past-!」

「Hahaha, sorry sorry.」

「There is also Rokuhara-san getting into relationship with Princess Cassandra while I was really distressed about it!」

Right now Riona was displaying an emotion that felt really similar with jealousy.

Of course, her feeling toward Ren right now was in the complicated stage of 『More than a business partner, perhaps a love interest?』 .

However, this was without a doubt something that closely resembled a “serious love”——.

In that case, it was in Rokuhara Ren’s nature to want to respond to it.

Ren who was lying down face up while being straddled by Riona. He lifted his right hand and gently caressed her side with his fingertip.

「Eh——？」

「You’ll reward me right, my queen？」

「Certainly, I said that but, nn.....-」

From Riona’s side, his fingertip crawled to the soft outer side of her thigh.

A soft touch that touching, but not quite. He went further in gently caressing her white back and shoulder, upper arm, elbow, the back of her hand, fingers, etc——

No matter where he touched, Riona would bite her lips with a pained look and enduring her voice from leaking out.

After sufficiently grasping that, he attacked once more at the area that seemed to be weak point.

「Aa.....」

「Riona, do you hate this kind of thing？」

「I, it’s a reward, so not really.....nnn」

Riona’s white naked body was turning faintly red that wasn’t the result of her shame.

Her skin was very fair, so it was easy to see the change of color that happened to her skin. Her bare skin was smooth like silk, the texture of her skin that was conveyed to his fingertip was amazingly pleasant.

「Bu, but—it made me a bit irritated.....」

「Why? Try to say it.」

「Rokuhara-san is seemingly very experienced.....it doesn't look like your experience point for this is half-baked.....」

「I'm often praised by auntie and big sis about—ouch!」

He had the hunch that he would anger her if he said that.

However right now Ren's curiosity of how the girl straddling him would react won and when he tested it—he was surprised.

Riona suddenly bit into the left ear of Ren who she was pinning down.

「That's why! I don't want to hear about any past woman!」

「Roger. I'll remember that.」

She immediately got angry in front of him and her eyes narrowed.

Ren stared still at her shapely looks and peered into the eyes of the hot-tempered girl. She should be far slower compared to other girls her age. However, perhaps thanks to the place's atmosphere—

This time Riona immediately noticed the wordless invitation.

She hesitated for a while. She showed a rare expression of indecision, and then Riona's face came closer nervously.....

Ren also lifted up his upper body and welcomed her.

It became a deep kiss. When Ren inserted his tongue, she also responded back eagerly from her side. Their tongues entangled—

After a long exchange, the two's lips finally separated.

「Aa.....Rokuhara-san's ear, there's blood.....」

「It was painful. But it's fine because I consider it a badge of honor.」

「Rokuhara-san, you're really an idiot.....ah」

The lips of Riona who smiled kindly. This time it was plugged up by Ren's initiative.

It felt like it would develop into another long kiss, but.

「Re, Ren-sama! Riona-sama too, what are you two doing!?!」

Cassandra had appeared beside the two of them without them noticing.

The Troy princess who vanished for some reason a little while ago had somehow returned here. She arrived at the conclusive scene of Riona straddling Ren who was sitting on the ground with the two of them kissing.

In front of Cassandra who was standing still with dumbfounded look——

「Ah, eerr. Right! In the first place it was you who said it yourself right? That till the end I am the first lady, while Princess Cassandra will stay in the shadow. With such premise, I don't think there is any particular problem with what we're doing-」

Riona immediately glossed over what happened.

「Let's support our husband fully with the two of us from here on. Dismissed!」

「No way..... I thought that Riona-sama who is ignorant of love affair between man and woman will need twenty years to arrive at this mental state, and yet——」

「Yo, you were thinking something really rude weren't you!?!」

The conversation of the two girls was really lively.

This should be pretty much a scene of carnage, but for some reason Ren felt that it was enjoyable. As expected it wasn't amusing for him to depart leaving these two alone—.

He wondered if this was what vitality that desired to live felt.

Something hot was bubbling up throughout his whole body.

At the same time, the will to counterattack filled his heart. Ren muttered quietly.

「I want to try to give a payback at Athena who did whatever she want as she pleased—. Perhaps I'll try challenging a loser revival battle repechage for a bit.」

Rokuhara Ren made a revenge announcement with a light tone which was just like him.

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.....And then when he noticed, Ren was sleeping near a sea.

It was a dreary place with only rock around. A small island with hair growing at the reef at best. It looked like it was just a little bit before dawn.

A stark naked Riona was sleeping right beside him.

Ren himself also wasn't wearing anything except a trouser.

「Ah, Rokuhara-san.....?」

His partner woke up in the same timing.

She got up while speaking to him with sleepy eyes. Ren also replied.

「Good morning, Riona. I've really inconvenienced you a lot.」

「No, it's great that you're able to revive.....wait! I did it! I magnificently cast the Hangan spell successfully!」

Riona's tension suddenly went up and she burst into laughter.

And then she glanced at her body and noticed that she was in her birthday's suit. She hid her moderate but nicely shaped breasts with her arms——

She stared at Ren's face looking terribly embarrassed and spoke with mumbling voice.

「I, I saw a strange dream. For some reason my appearance is also like this——」

「It wasn't a dream you know? Look.」

Ren pointed at his left ear.

It was the place where Riona bit him at the bank of Sanzu River or rather Styx River. It still hurt. Dried blood was sticking to the teeth shaped wound.

Riona went 「!?」 and her body stiffened seeing that.

Ren winked at his lovely partner and looked over the strange sky.

The azure color of a sky that was just before the dawn break was mixed with the rose color from the light of the dawn. The drifting cloud was shining gold. And yet the morning sun wasn't anywhere to see.

The daybreak before dawn was continuing forever. This was too extreme even for an abnormality.

But well, there was no night that wouldn't end. He could also see it as the morning being near. Perhaps this was just the right timing for beginning his restart.

# **Chapter 4 – Before the God’s Judgment**

## Part 1

The sky was dyed with the azure color of dawn.

The sun still hadn't showed itself, but for some reason rose colored beam was undulating here and there in the sky as though it was receiving morning sunlight.

It was the result of the law of nature being twisted.

The land was fiercely burned, and in addition it was exposed to a planetary scale flood.

Currently the world of Ren and others was only the vast ocean.

And then, speaking of the resurrected Rokuhara Ren——

He plunged into that sea and dived repeatedly. He took off his clothes and wore only navy blue boxer pants. Fortunately the boxer was created from polyester and nylon like swimsuit, so it was enough to act as substitute.

The temperature was moderately warm, and the water temperature was also not that cold.

But, there wasn't any tool for scuba diving. The depth he could dive and the time weren't much.

Even so Ren stayed underwater as long as he could and swam following his whim. He carefully ascertained the state of the sea.

(The water is really clean.)

The blueness was deeper than marine blue. The blue color of the water was nearer to azure.



It was the same like the sea of Hyperborea that he was seeing everyday until several days ago.

There wasn't any trash floating inside the clear sea water. He also didn't see any kind of sea creature. There was only sand at the sea bottom around the island. There also wasn't any kind of seaweed.

So to speak, there wasn't any presence of life at all in this sea.

Although——

Just now, there were large turtles passing through in front of Ren. Their body length was around two meter. However, it would be alright even if he didn't count these turtles as living thing.

After all they were shikigami that were created by the technique of onmyouji Toba Riona.

The large turtles swam inside the sea with a good speed. Right now they were surfacing toward the sea surface. They intended to return to the small island where Riona was located.

His breathing would also reach the limit soon. Ren followed behind the large turtles.

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Almost all of the world was submerged inside the sea.

There were only extremely few remaining lands. Even if they went out to the sea searching for a land where they could take root, it would surely end up as a fruitless effort——

「That's not guaranteed. Let's send out the shikigami to check.」

Riona said that a little while ago.

It was after she woke up together with Ren and straightened up her appearance.

The small island where they two of them were sleeping only had rocky place and small beach. There wasn't any grass growing, not to mention tree. In addition there wasn't even a single insect let alone bird or animal.

Ren said.

「Certainly, at this rate we will starve and die. We aren't in a state to fight Athena.」

「Yes. But, if my prediction is correct——」

Riona crouched down and wrote letters on the sand with her fingertip.

It was a spell sentence. 『<ruby>依吾指教 奏上三精 急急如律令</rt>Igo Shikou Soujou Sansei Kyuukyuu Nyoritsuryou</rt></ruby>』 .

When sea water that was scooped with hand was splashed to those letters, turtles in the size that could be put on a palm crawled out. The number wasn't just ten or twenty. It was like a genuine “turtle's egg-laying”, several hundred mini turtles were born and entered the sea one after another.

The turtles bloated up the moment they were submerged in water and became the size of around two meter in length——.

Several hours after that.

The giant turtles returned to the small island's beach together with Ren.

They went toward the waiting Riona with a movement that was more agile than could be imagined from their shape.

「How is it, Rokuhara-san?」

「Inside the sea, at the very least there is nothing to be found around this island. There is one thing that bothered me but..... But, we can talk about it later.」

「Then, let's check the result of the main force first.」

While Ren and Riona were watching—

The large turtles that crawled on the ground opened their mouth. \*Fuh!\*  
Something was spat out quickly. It was a product of civilization that even Ren was familiar with.

「This is, canned fish huh.....」

The content of the can could be predicted from the illustration on the can.  
However he couldn't read the letters of the transcription.

「What language is this?」

「This is Arabian language. This seems to be oiled sardine. Other than that there is also canned couscous..... Perhaps this place is originally somewhere in north Africa. Like Algeria or Morocco」

Riona commented.

Under the watchful eyes of their master, the large turtle shikigami spat out more than ten canned food in total. In addition there were also a lot of bottled drinks. Mineral water, carbonated orange juice, lemon soda, there was also an unknown black juice among them.

Riona was satisfied by the gains of her underlings.

「It seems there was also undersea ruins of the previous civilization at Hyperborea. I was hoping we could obtain some kind of earth goods if we searched the bottom of the sea in wide range.」

「This is appreciated. With this we can pull through for the time being.」

Ren tried picking up one of the canned food.

The shikigami swallowed the salvaged food and drink, so he thought that it would be slimy with saliva or gastric juice, but on the contrary that wasn't the case. It was wet with sea water but there wasn't any stickiness. As expected from the familiars that were dispatched by sorcery.

「What convenient thing.」

「It seems there is a city that is sinking in relatively nearby area. The depth of water is also not that deep, so let's pull up useful things a lot.」

Riona crouched and placed her hand on the turtle shikigami's head.

By doing that, she was able to pull out information from her subordinates that were wandering inside the sea. But, in contrast to the rejoicing Ren, Riona herself was frowning in puzzlement.

「What's wrong Riona?」

「There is also something that bothered me. Actually I felt it baffling since before Rokuhara-san dived into the sea.....」

It seemed that Riona also harbored the same doubt.

That was why Ren plunged into the sea and Riona too was also waiting for information from her shikigami. The two of them nodded to each other and spoke at the same time.

「The sea is too clean even though there was a giant tsunami not long ago.」

「Yes. Not just the sea surface, there is also practically no driftwood underwater. The towns and cities that we mankind built are only sinking and become like undersea ruin here and there.....」

Riona pondered while speaking with certainty.

「The corpses of the victims who were swept from the surface—can't be found anywhere.」

Normally, at the aftermath of a tsunami,

There should be countless objects that got washed away and drifted ashore to this island.

Like articles of various sizes, and above all else the corpses of living things. Especially if this place was near a city, it wouldn't be strange even if this beach got covered with human corpses.

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## Part 2

Riona was busy just before Ren dived into the sea.

A small island that only had rock and a bit of beach—she was engraving some kind of spell into one of those rocky places. It was the scripture of Yin Yang and the five elements.

『水生木大吉』 『木生火大吉』 『火生土大吉』 『土生金大吉』 『金生水大吉』 (TN: They seems to mean water create wood, wood create fire, fire create earth, earth create metal, metal create water. The cycle of the five elements.)

Riona briefly explained to him.

「Wood, fire, earth, metal, and water of the Yin Yang five elements—in short it's the oriental version of the earth, water, fire, wind, the great four elements theory. By putting the five elements in good circulation and affinity, it formed the prayer of Huge Harvest of the Five Grains.」

The result was clear even from an outsider's perspective.

When he returned from the sea, the rocky place where the spell was carved into was transformed into a ground with soil.

Furthermore, after watching it for a while, grass and flowers grew, and even palm tree was growing taller one after another. There was even clear spring water welling up and became a small spring.

This corner was the size of a small public park.

But, the scenery of the dreary island was greatly changed with this.

「This is the same like the island created from the animal of sacrifice in Hyperborea.」

Riona said proudly.

「The island will steadily expand, even forest and river will appear, and life will be born. Its scale is small but, it's a reproduction of that miracle.」

「Amazing. With this it become really easy to survive.」

They became able to secure shelter and watering place without expending much effort with this.

Furthermore, the palm tree could also be used as living material. Thankfully there was nearly ten trees growing. They were still young but they had even fruits growing from them.

Ren immediately climbed a tree and dropped down a coconut to the ground.

「That nimbleness is as expected from Rokuhara-san. ....By the way, how about you wear clothes soon? I'm troubled of where to look like this.」

「Aa. Sorry, I forgot.」

Since coming out from the sea, Ren was wearing only a single boxer pants until now.

There would be no problem to keep being dressed like this with the warm temperature, and he didn't want to let his clothes that became his only remaining clothes right now to get wet.

Riona was embarrassed and averted her eyes from the half naked body that was often said as unexpectedly muscular.

Ren winked at his partner's adorable reaction.

「As long as you don't mind, I'm fine with staying like this all the time. It feels liberating.」

「Do, don't say stupid thing, make the fire already!」

「Hahaha. Roger.」

Ren picked up a moderately sized rock and split open the coconut.

It was to use the shell as replacement for firewood. In addition he also added the fiber of tree bark and lit fire using the lighter that Riona had among her personal possession—

「With the fire taken care of, let's fortify ourselves with a meal now!」

With Riona's proposal, they began to have meal that doubled as a break.

Fortunately the turtle shikigami were coming back in one and two and spat out their salvaged gains from the bottom of the sea in favorable pace. Everything was soaked wet but, there a lot of immediately useful things like knife, bucket, clothes and blanket, tent, sealed foodstuff, etc.

They warmed canned food near the fire and tomato simmered chicken and oil sardine were prepared.

After they finally finished the simple meal.

「Then Riona. About the matter of there is no corpses at all.」

「I have one hypothesis.」

Ren suddenly broached the topic. His partner replied right away.

「The end of the world that Athena caused. Perhaps—on top of causing an unprecedented crisis that might never be seen again, the phenomenon is one that completely change the way of the world in planetary scale.」

「.....Change?」

「You know, the captain of the group that greatly enliven the world did the same right? The creation of a world where the summer holiday doesn't end



for eternity. A change into a world where cat is talking. You don't know that one?」

Riona talked casually. But, Ren tilted his head in puzzlement.

「I think I've heard about it a little, but that's all.」

「This is why someone with half-baked otaku knowledge is just.....  
Then, what about What-If Phone Box?」

「I know if it's that one.」

Ren comprehended it. What if magic existed. What if money was considered unnecessary.

It was a dream item that created such [what if] world.

「Then, the what if this time is as expected——」

「It's undoubtedly 『If only all the living things on earth are erased and the world is reset to brand new state』 . When the whole earth was enveloped in water and fire.....I saw it from the sky. The swallowed humans vanished in an instant.」

Riona spoke bit by bit while searching her memory.

「Eh, thinking really carefully, I think that perhaps it should be interpreted as them 『vanishing』 before they died from drowning or burning. Look, it's just like what we also noticed.....」

「Because the victims' corpses doesn't exist anywhere?」

Ren couldn't feel convinced and tilted his head.

「But still. It's a super great disaster that sink all the lands on earth into the sea you know? Even if they weren't made to vanish, all the living creatures would still all die on their own wouldn't they?」

「Actually the original myth—the flood myth at various places in the world is like that.」

Riona answered swiftly.

「In the great flood of that kind of story, mankind doesn't die by drowning but 『is vanished like in a certain instrumentality project』 .....there is also such theory.」

「Is that true!?!」

「The prototype of flood myth is likely the model of Hyperborea, the original homeland of Indo-European languages, or perhaps it was established somewhere in ancient Mesopotamia that was near there. The basic pattern is like this.」

.

1. A god who couldn't forgive mankind's existence caused a great flood.
2. However only a human who had been informed beforehand created a ship and survived the flood.
3. The water receded many days later, the survivor reached a land and began a new life.

.

Riona said more.

「Frankly most flood myth is faithful to this pattern. And then 『the countless drowned bodies』 that should naturally be there doesn't make any appearance anywhere.」

「Why is that?」

「It's simply because it doesn't fit the image of “a new world where everything on the surface was washed away”.....perhaps. Unlike flood damage in reality, the flood of mythology simply prioritized image.」

In the famous Noah's Ark, the survivor stayed on water for around two months most likely.

After saying that, Riona added.

「The oldest flood myth that can be confirmed in literature—Mesopotamia's Utnapishtim's Ark, the period of flood in there is around twenty days. In Greek mythology's Deucalion's Flood, the flood is around ten days. With just that short period, there is no way a drowned body will have decomposed into soil already, and yet the story will enter the new world episode without the corpses of dead human and animal appearing anywhere. The reason why flood myth 『isn't a tale of human died by drowning but a tale of resetting and reorganizing the world』 is there.」

「I see. So the plot is based on doing restart.」

「Yes. This world too is perhaps—if lands that are a bit more suitable for living are created, that will be the start of the new game. Until then the morning sun won't rise just like now and the “dawn” will continue forever waiting for the daybreak of Gaia.」

Ren was finally convinced and looked up to the sky.

The base color of the sky was azure with rose colored light sometimes mixed in. The sky of dawn. The time that was the opposite of the dusk—.

Riona looked at the sea and sky and sighed.

「The living thing on earth vanished without even living behind drowning corpses. The sky is in an absurd state that completely ignored rotation and revolution, the connection between earth and sun. This place we're at might be a type of mythological world.....」

「This place? You mean the whole earth?」

「Yes. Earth became a world where flood myth is reproduced in its entirety. It's truly What-If Phone Box. You can also call it Humanity Instrumentality

Project though.」

「Certainly, this is already not a world where logic work.....」

「Well, the legend of the end that is derived from flood myth—like the Revelation of the Old and New Testament, the plot there is even more absurd than this though. After the world's destruction, the dead humans will all get revived and put under the last judgment. There it will be formally decided whether they will go to heaven or fall to hell.」

「Eh? The dead mankind will all get revived?」

「Yes. When all of them are revived, they will go through the Last Judgment in turn. There it will be decided if they will get invited into the kingdom of god or fall into hell.」

「If it's like that」

Ren suddenly proposed.

「If the god is defeated when all the dead humans has been revived and the last judgment is stooped, won't it become all's well that ends well?」

「.....I, think so.」

Riona affirmed even while looking astonished.

「Like, the Human Instrumentality Prokect failed and the disappeared mankind will return. Or there is Dragon Ball, so everyone will come back to life anyway. Certainly I get the hunch that it can become the same result like that..... Earth right now is a mythological world—an extraordinary space where common sense doesn't apply, so that's all the more.....」

「Looks like there is merit in trying it out!」

「That might be—aa, no no.」

Riona denied in panic.

「Certainly the Revelation in Judaism and Christianity is like that but, Athena is a divinity from Greek mythology in the end. Even before that she was a mother earth goddess who symbolized snake and was widely worshipped in the ancient Mediterranean area. She and that Medusa are two sides of the same coin. I think the possibility that she will implement mankind resurrection like what is written in the Revelation is low.」

「But, even the bible's story happened around the Mediterranean Sea a long time ago right? Isn't there any relation between them?」

Ren didn't give up that line of thinking and pressed on. Then Riona fell into thought,

「That's, well..... Even Deucalion Flood of Greek mythology is said to be actually plagiarized from a flood mythology of other area.」

A long, long time ago. The king of the gods Zeus was angry at the unjust humans and planned to erase mankind with a great flood. Deucalion was the only one who knew about that plan. He boarded an arc together with his wife and survived through the flood—.

Ren nodded.

「It's mostly the same like Noah's Ark.」

「But the story after they get back to land is different. The survivor is only Deucalion and his wife. When they are at a loss because their number is too little, Goddess Themis appeared in front of the two of them, she told them to throw a rock. When the husband and wife do so, male and female humans are born from the thrown rock one after another.」

Riona made a puzzled expression.

「This isn't revival, it's new birth in the end. It won't come into a convenient development like we wished for.」

「But remember, Cassandra said it.」

Ren spoke quietly but passionately.

When he was in the middle of crossing the Styx River, Princess Cassandra and Riona came in succession and stopped him. At that time,

「She said that there is remaining hope in the island where Athena is. I think that's a prophecy.」

「Princess Cassandra was!?!」

.

Setting aside whether the complete revival of mankind would come true or not,

For now they would search Athena who should be somewhere in the sea first—.

The two of them decided on that plan and started taking action. In the end Riona too would answer Ren's feeling if there was a hope even if it was only slightly.

「It'll be aggravating to just hug my knees in fear obediently after all!」

They had to give Athena a payback at least once no matter what.

For that Riona released shikigami not only to the sea, but also to the sky. The bundle of charms transformed to a flock of blue swallows and they set out.

The swallows scattered to all directions.

「I came into contact with Rokuhara-san's soul using the spell of Hangan, but Princess Cassandra is also a prophet and a priestess from a mythological world. It's not strange that she can do the same thing. Here I'll believe that the prophecy isn't a dream that goshujin-sama saw and do everything that I can.」

Although her heart was impatient, there was nothing to do while waiting for the report from her shikigami.

Perhaps because of that, Riona brought up a topic.

「By the way, the earth destruction this time. What became the deciding factor was this super item thing called the Vessel of the End that Athena preserved but—that thing is a puzzle.....」

「Puzzle you say?」

「I wonder what kind of legend is related to that item that cause the world's destruction. Furthermore it should be from an area that has connection with Athena to some extent——」

「Does Riona have any idea?」

「None at all.」

「Come to think of it, there was this hero movie wasn't it? The villain gathered five amazing power stones and halved the population of universe's population.」

Riona immediately bit at Ren's recollection.

「Yes yes. That's something that “often happen” in Marvel comic. Super powered people or item that can change the world completely change the world for real—such thing happen to that universe in the frequency of once every several years.」

「Eh, that often?」

「Yes. And then after many twists and turns the heroes will return the world back to normal somehow, or they will adapt to the changed environment and enter a new chapter.」

「Naturally we only have the option of return the world back to normal here.」

「Yes. Actually I.....that divine tool, the Vessel of the End, I have hope that the changed world can perhaps be reset again if we steal that item. I

think the possibility of that way is higher rather than going with mankind complete revival by stopping the last judgment.」

In any case——

If they didn't do anything, then they could only despair together.

Perhaps because of that their strategy meeting that was mixed with idle talk was filled with passion. They sat on some random rock and conversed face to face. It was also a fulfilling time of just the two of them.

Ren suddenly thought of something and stared fixedly to his partner's face.

Their gaze met. Riona averted her gaze in embarrassment.

「Wha, what's the matter, Rokuhara-san?」

「No, you see. I think that Riona is beautiful.」

「!? Wha-wha, what are you saying so suddenly!?」

「Riona yourself often said it right? That you are a beautiful girl. I also think so.」

「O, of course I'm aware of it but-. Rokuhara-san, you never praised me even once about that until now aren't you?」

「Well of course. Our relationship isn't like that until now.」

Ren smiled at his bashful and flustered partner.

「But, right now is slightly different from that time. Isn't that right?」

「That's, well, you're right but.....」

The distance between the two of them was obviously shortened, both physically and mentally.



But, Riona was still awkward. Ren who didn't have any intention of rushing only grinned cheerfully and stopped.

Then Riona looked down with an awkward expression.

「I, I'm fine doing this and that with Rokuhara-san but..... But thinking carefully, we don't even know about Princess Cassandra's safety right now, so doing those kind of things is a bit prickling to the heart——」

「Cassandra is perhaps.....no, she is undoubtedly safe.」

Ren spoke with conviction.

「Athena swore as a god. That she will protect her and Julio no matter what.」

「I, in that case, certainly it feels like we can trust that..... It's just like what Umayado no Ouji said before, breaking an oath is a suicidal act that harm the identity of the god. I see. If Princess Cassandra is alright, I too can feel relieved and be proactive toward Rokuhara-san——eh? It feels like something is a bit mistaken.....?」

The romance affair that she wasn't used to brought another confusion for Riona.

「Normally isn't someone starting a new love or searching for a new encounter because the previous lover is gone not because they are safe!?!」

「It's fine. Other people is other people, we have our own way.」

His flustered partner was adorable. Ren said with a grin.

「To feel concerned whether something is normal or not, that's really unlike Riona.」

「Uuuuu. It's exactly like you say but stilll———ah」

Suddenly Riona's gaze turned down.

A large turtle with shell that was nearly two meter long had come to her feet without her noticing. The same like the blue swallows that she released before this, this turtle was also Riona's shikigami.

Its intelligent looking eyes were looking up to its master, bringing something to her attention.

It seemed they communicated through their eyes. Riona reported with a subdued tone.

「.....Looks like it found what we are looking for.」

「Athena's location is found already!? Amazing, that's big!」

「No. I also made them to search something else. It got a hit about that one. Actually I was advised by the prophet John-san. He told me to search for a shining sword——」

.

## Part 3

If she transformed to sacred bird Yatagarasu, then even the wide open sky belonged to Toba Riona.

She could fly around freely. But, if she felt like it she could also enter into the sea and traveled underwater like it was her own turf without much difficulty.

She rarely did such thing only because it wasn't fitting for a sacred bird who should belong to the sky.

However right now Riona transformed into Yatagarasu and plunged into the azure sea. Currently she had just reached the bottom of the sea.

It was around 400 km northwest from the small island where they built their modest base.

A city was sinking around 40 until 50 meter underwater. However, the condition was very different from the area where the shikigami were procuring supplies.

(This one is in a really disastrous state.....)

At the bottom of the sea—was a burnt area that sunk into water.

The whole city was burned by flame with outrageous heat. It was a site where many lives and buildings were annihilated in flame.

There were only reinforced concrete and buildings made from stone remaining.

But, even those were melting all over and only barely maintained their base form. Also perhaps because of the effect from getting burned by super high

heat, the buildings were growing dull into white color in the whole.

The great fire of assured destruction that Apollo entrusted to Athena—.

This was an area that was burned by that flame.

And then Riona wandered amidst the fire-devastated area for a while and felt convinced.

(As I thought, this is Valencia City.....)

She had visited here several times since she got acquainted with Rokuhara Ren.

City number three in Spain, Valencia—. She somehow recognized the townscape.

The cathedral that was also the center of the city. Torre del Miguelete.

The rampart from Middle Ages that surrounded the old town. The station building that looked like a palace. Etc.

However, all of them had grown dull into white color. Their shape also crumbled to look like melted ice statue. It was a disastrous sight that really looked like the end of the century era.

Yatagarasu elegantly flew forward amidst that.

Like how a ray would flap its pectoral fin, the golden wings were slowly moving up and down.

(Putting aside the city, the water is too clean as expected.....)

There wasn't any trash drifting in the water, there was also no corpse of human or animal.

Riona confirmed the situation inside the clear sea with her own eyes while going until her destination.

The city outskirts that was far away from the city's center. The number of buildings was also few. Originally there should be countryside scenery spreading out quietly in this place. Riona had also come here before.

The western mansion that once stored Doomsday Clock—or its ruin.

The foundation of the mansion only barely remained. Everything else was no different from an empty lot.

That was why, it was like there was no vestige remaining of its previous appearance but—.

One corner was shining with platinum light.

A sword that was in a large size and emitting divine radiance was buried into the ground. Only the hilt and the joint that was connected to the blade was exposed outside, the rest was underground.

(The sword that John-san prophesized, perhaps this is the one.....)

She didn't think that this kind of treasure could be found that easily.

Although the exploration team that she sent out to the sea in order to procure supplies found this, it couldn't be collected using the shikigami's limited strength. They swallowed a target using magic power and brought it until land. But, this sword that looked significant easily deflected their magic power.

There Riona personally came here—.

Using the telekinesis of the sacred bird Yatagarasu, she pulled it out from the ground like harvesting radish.

The sword was covered in soil. But, the soil was washed away by the tide underwater and its form was quickly exposed.

The length of the shining platinum sword was nearly one meter—.

It was a double-edged long sword with imposing and heroic appearance. There was no doubt that it was a divine sword or mystical sword boasting an incredible pedigree. Riona was sure of that.

And then, there was one more point that deserved special mention.

(.....Why is it also coming along with a human?)

The shining sword wasn't the only thing buried.

A girl was sleeping soundly under the protection of the radiance that the divine sword emitted. Even though she had been buried underwater for long, she wasn't even wet. She wasn't even dirtied by dirt.

Lovely face. Brown skin. Loose negligee. She remembered seeing her before.

(If I'm not wrong—she is the mysterious sleeping princess!)

The sleeping princess who was sealed inside the main building of this mansion.

One time she became a living spirit, targeted Riona's little sister Fumika, and planned to obtain freedom. She was an unidentified mysterious person.

.

Rokuhara Ren was waiting in the small island that became their base.

He welcomed Riona who returned in the form of Yatagarasu and felt surprised. There was a familiar girl beside his partner that dispelled her transformation.

「Thank you very much! I'm really thankful that you saved me!」

The former sleeping princess greeted him energetically.

The girl who Riona salvaged together with the shining sword. She brightly introduced herself still dressed in the negligee that Ren also saw her

wearing in the past.

「My name is Aisha. Please treat me well.」

「This Aisha-san, in short she is a godslaying demon king-sama who Julio's ancestor sealed it seems. Because she was bounded by Valencia's ley line through the Holy Grail that was the power source of White Queen, she was asleep all the time.」

Riona who seemed to have heard the story explained the rough outline to him.

「Yees. But if the earth is destroyed, then the ley line and everything else is also gone nowww」

Miss Aisha said smilingly.

「Now I'm openly free. Both of you, you two plan to resurrect the world aren't you? I will also help out, so let's do our best together!」

「Really? That's great news. I am Rokuhara Ren.」

Ren became all smile with this unexpected encounter and offered his right hand.

Then Aisha also returned a bright smile and responded to the handshake.

「I am not useful in things like physical strength or the like, even so I'm someone with many experience in facing danger to the world. I believe you can rely on me in that aspect.」

「That's amazing Aisha-san. You're experienced?」

Ren and others had also witnessed danger that threatened the world each time they traveled to a mythological world.

However, he was surprised learning that godslayer with similar experience wasn't rare. Aisha talk a bit boastfully with the air of a knowledgeable older sister.

「Travelling in mythological world and parallel world is common occurrence. This kind of thing is so common it even makes me want to say 『It's the regular danger to the world as usual』 ♪」

「Several of those dangers were something that Aisha-san caused weren't it?」

「.....」

「Ah, you don't deny it.」

「No no-. There is no way someone at my level can possibly do such outrageous thing isn't it?」

The demon king who was sealed by Julio's ancestor Caesar Blandelli.

Ren recalled that history and made a joke with that, but unexpectedly it was the truth. Aisha averted her gaze shiftily and dodged the question.

On the other hand, Riona stared closely at such female demon king.

「In any case, your character is the exact opposite of the overly unsociable 『seniors』 until now. Like the wolf user marquis-sama, or the honorable master Luo Hao-sama.....」

「Ah. Those people are my friends. It won't be an exaggeration even if you call them my stepbrother and stepsister.」

「That, it's without a doubt an exaggeration isn't it!? There is no way that you can have that kind of relationship with those people with bankrupt personality and communication problem, absolutely not!」

Riona retorted at Miss Aisha's unsubstantiated assertion before shrugging.

「In any case, right now my shikigami are searching for athena's location. We can only wait for their report, so for now there is nothing to do but being on standby.」

「Then, I pray so that a good news will arrive soon.」



For some reason Aisha smiled with confidence.

「The me right now should be really lucky!」

「Luck? What do you mean, Aisha-san?」

「The truth is, I have an authority that can call for good fortune. It might be because of that, that good things will naturally happen for me. Even this time, it made Riona-san found me!」

「Ah——」

Riona looked up with a face that was taken by surprise.

The azure sky before dawn. A single blue swallow was flying in a circle. It was one of the shikigami that she sent out as a search party.

.

Surprisingly, it was just like Miss Aisha said.

「The island that seems to be Athena's hideout is located 1200 kilometer at east-northeast from our present location. Furthermore I was also able to confirm the survival of Julio and Princess Cassandra.」

At the campsite where bonfire was prepared, tent was set up, and camping preparation had been finished.

There Riona suddenly started talking. The spring that was created using secret art of onmyouji was used as an improvised screen. It was projecting the scenery that was seen by the flying shikigami.

—A moderately large island was floating on the sea.

—It was a desolate island that only had rock. Nearly a hundred stone statues were standing in a corner of that island. It had a very real make that made it looked like they could start moving any time. They looked completely like living human.

—There were also stone statues that looked exactly like Troy princess Cassandra and Julio Blandelli.

—There were fierce looking dragons at the rock cliff and beach that were facing the sea.

—They were loafing around, slovenly sprawling on the ground, resting their body. The number of dragons that were flying above the island in sport also wasn't few.

「I wonder where is Athena?」

Ren confirmed the situation of the enemy base and muttered.

The ringleader, the great goddess's figure couldn't be seen anywhere. Riona answered.

「At least she isn't on the surface. Perhaps she is setting out to elsewhere. But, personally I think she is lurking somewhere in the island. This island's spirit of earth is strangely strong, it seems that it's under Athena's strong protection.」

The scenery of the enemy base that was projected on the spring's surface.

It changed to new image in respond to Riona's words.

—First the whole island seen from overhead was projected. It was a land that was only formed from rugged rock. At the center there was a woman's face drawn in simple line drawing.....

Around the contour, there were also several wavy lines that looked like snakes.

「The image carved at the center of the island is Gorgon's symbol. It's the symbol of an ancient earth mother goddess, and it's the none other than the carved seal of Athena who achieved unification with Medusa so that they're now two sides of the same coin.」

Ren muttered in respond to Riona's explanation.

「A thousand dragons are protecting that. That means it's Athena's base.」

「Yes. If we carelessly approach, we will be ganged up by the dragons with no question asked. ....It's good that we have found out the enemy's base, but it's also not a really good news——」

「It can't be helped you know. Fortune and misfortune come by turns after all, yes.」

Aisha said her opinion with a friendly grin. She was cheerful even now.

「Rather than that everyone, if you like let's go search! Isn't there anything, something that can bring us a chance to win——」

「We have no way to win if we only depend on fighting power after all.」

Riona sighed deeply.

「Our trump card the White Queen is in that state.」

A long spear was stabbed into the ground at their camp site.

The blade of the spear was scratched all over. 『Don't wake me up no matter what until it's time where you two really need me』. The queen who left those words behind was then reduced to this.

「And Aisha-san, you said that you 『don't have confidence in your ability』 didn't you?」

「I'm really sorry. No matter what I'm really not good with fighting.....」

「It's totally mysterious how can such person is a godslayer. In the first place you won't be able to kill a god like that.....」

Riona retorted. Aisha spoke with a flustered tone.

「Unthinkable! I always wish to get along with the gods. But, for some reason misfortune always occurred repeatedly and the result ended up to be something that I didn't intend for.....」

「 「.....」 」

Aisha's surprising remark made Ren and Riona exchanged glance.

(Just now is really an amazing confession isn't it? This person, even though she has zero killing intent she ended up killing god many times.....I can only hear it like that.)

(Yeah. I wonder just what kind of life she has spent until now.....)

(Perhaps when it's the critical moment, she will surely be helpful using some kind of method. But, it doesn't look like it will be any use even if we retort to her right now.)

A communication without voice using telepathy.

It didn't look like there would be any use even if they weighed their mind about Miss Aisha more than this, so Ren looked at another weapon, the shining sword that was put on the ground.

「This sword, it's really magnificent huh.」

「Yees. That sword, it's actually the “sword of the hero-sama” that will save the world. It was made in order to annihilate us godslayer—it's the universe's strongest weapon you knoww?」

Its name was the Divine Sword of Salvation.

Aisha casually gave a shocking additional information.

「In the past, even Luo Hao-oneesama and Voban-oniisama were utterly troubled by this sword!」

「Certainly, it's a divine sword with bizarrely great atmosphere. It won't be strange at all even if it has that kind of status. But——」

Riona who had been bothered by this sword all this time immediately retorted.

「Why is something like that protected Aisha-san?」

「I think that perhaps, it recognized my character, or the righteousness of my behavior, or something like love or courage! .....Ah, is this explanation no good?」

「Yes. Please think of a more logical explanation.」

Riona quickly displayed her usual queenly attitude at the carefree godslayer.

Aisha pondered deeply 「Uuuun」 at the retake request, then

「Ah. When Athena attacked me, she herself said this!」

.

—Right now I'm a great sinner who twist the fate of this world and attempt to destroy it.

—Because of that the sword of salvation descended.

.

「I see. Originally this world shouldn't perish.」

Ren nodded after learning the remark of his arch-enemy.

「And yet Athena forcefully tried to twist the future. The Divine Sword of Salvation descended in order to hinder that.」

「Yees. It's something that often happen when you time travel to the past though.」

Miss Aisha casually said something outrageous once more.

「If you do something that change the proper history, the 『corrective force』 will act and make that change to “didn't happen”. That's why something like the future is branching off and creating a parallel world like in SF novel won't happen.」

「I see. So for example even if we save Sakamoto Ryouma from the attack of Oumiya, after that another cause of death will occur and Ryouma will die around the end of Keio era's three years without fail.」

「The Divine Sword of Salvation must have descended for that too. But」

Aisha stared at the divine sword lying on the ground with a troubled face.

「There isn't a hero-sama who is worthy for this sword right now. Godsayers like us absolutely won't be able to use it.」

「.....Well, the stage has been prepared to this degree though.」

Ren thought for a while before he suddenly said.

「Let's try improvising later. I'll try rampaging flashily at Athena's island.」

「.....Rokuhara-san, you're planning to pick a fight?」

Riona immediately said in response.

「Yep. You can't obtain a tiger cub without entering the tiger den. I also want to steal this mysterious item that destroy the world while I'm at it.」

If they didn't rush in even knowing it was dangerous, they wouldn't progress more than this.

It seemed his partner also felt the same, Riona also nodded fearlessly. Apparently she had no intention to stop him at all. Although, when he winked at her with the feeling of 'As expected from my partner', she suddenly looked embarrassed and looked down—.

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## Part 4

A few hours later.

Rokuhara Ren stepped into the enemy territory alone.

It was the solitary island on the sea that was the base of Athena.

Here, dragons with fierce looking face were everywhere. Their long body coiled down on the desolate rocky ground. Others spread out their wings in the sky, elegantly catching the wind and enjoying their flight.

Red, blue, black, green. white—there were dragons of every color.

It was an innumerable number that he didn't even feel like counting. He thought that there would be no problem in general if he roughly guessed that there were several thousand dragons.

Also, there were a giant beast that looked like elephant, Behemoth on the land, winged giant that looked like angel in the sky, Leviathan that looked like a whale in the sea around the island, and others. However, their number was remarkably lower than the dragons that occupied 80 percent of the space.

Anyway, Ren was walking leisurely at such dangerous area.

He aimed at the center of the island—the area where the symbol of Gorgon was engraved. This island differed from the base that Riona had done her best to arrange, there was only rocky place here. That was why there was no way to get lost here.

「I'm really feeling the heated gazes on me.」

Attention was showering Ren from every direction while he was walking easily.

The army of beasts that Athena summoned—. They not only followed Rokuhara Ren with their eyes, intense emotions like fighting spirit, killing intent, and fury were also thrown openly at him.

In addition he could hear various voices even without straining his ear.

\*Uuuuuuuuuuuuuuu.....\*

\*Nn—ooooooooOOOOOOoooo—!\*

\*GUOOOH! GUOOOH! GUOOOH! GUOOOH!\*

All of them were threatening growl and howling voices. Even the winged giants that seemed to be angels were expressing their hostility with a howl that was like gorilla despite their beautiful look.

「If all these are cheering from girls, I'll be able to taste how it feels to be an idol.」

Rokuhara Ren smiled wryly while continuing walking.

The beasts of the end didn't rush at him all at once. He had a rough idea about the reason. Because he felt a single gaze that surpassed even the thousands of dragons.

A gaze that was more powerful than anything in this island and overflowing with god's majesty—.

「How about showing up soon, Athena-san?」

『Unfortunately, I can't do that.』

An answer came from the sky.

Two eyes floated at the sky that was filled with sunrise colors.



It was a gaze of a young girl, and yet it reminded one of a hunting owl or poisonous snake that found a prey—those were the eyes of Goddess Athena.

Let alone the dragons, the eyes' size was far more gigantic than even the cumulonimbus cloud drifting in the sky.

『I am slightly tired from carrying out the great feat of destroying the world. My body still needs rest..... Rokuhara Ren, I have the wish to personally welcome you who have managed to prolong your life, but the time is still too early. Let me sleep for a bit more.』

「That's disappointing. I'm hoping for a revenge match here.」

『Hou? You are saying that you are able to make up for your defeat against me?』

「I can. Athena-san has already sworn after all. That you will protect Julio and Cassandra without fail. This time you can't use the hostage tactic.」

『Kukukuku! You're determined, o young godslayer!』

Athena's voice that resounded in the sky was filled with joy of battle.

『Very well. I'll test you first whether the beasts serving this queen will be able to tear you limb to limb with their claws! Go!』

「So you finally come at me like that!」

Thus—

The enraged beasts assaulted him one after another from every direction.

Usually he would stockpile the reserve of Retributive Justice before unleashing an attack with overwhelming amount. That was Rokuhara Ren's pattern of certain victory.

However this time the same kind of all out attack was descending on him.

One dragon tried to crush the tiny Ren with its pure weight. There was also dragon that tried to bite and crush him to shreds with mouth that was packed full by fangs.

Shap dragon claws fell like lightning. Scorching flame was breathed out from mouth.

Flexible tail came striking with a speed that surpassed the speed of sound like a whip. The angel giant came punching. The front leg of Behemoth trampled down. Leviathan rained down lightning from far in the sea.

Among those there was also dragon that dug underground and launched surprise attack from below.

Dodging all of those attacks with godspeed was Ren's forte. He swayed here and there lightly, dancing like a butterfly. He continued to dance, dodging every single one of the beasts' fierce attacks—that wasn't all.

Every single one of them would fall right after they attacked Ren.

The dragons, the other beasts, not one of them became exception. It was as though they got heart attack or stroke, they would collapse powerlessly on the ground.

Those in the sky would fall in vain.

Even though Ren was simply continuing to dodge the attacks and nothing else—.

The eyes of Athena that appeared in the sky opened wide in wonderment.

『Oo!? So you devised a strange technique, godslayer!』

「I got an idea while coming here. I thought that it will become a one hit kill attack if I can do it.」

The dragons rushed toward the grinning Ren. They tried to slam him with their nose then sank their teeth into him before swallowing him whole.

Ren lightly slipped through the attack that should crash on him.

Seen from the side, it looked like he was simply crossing over the dragon. But, in that moment of crossing, Ren chanted words of power with a whisper.

「Nemesis shall hand down divine punishment to wicked deed that harmed life. May the judgment of justice come here——」

Dealing Retributive Justice the instant he was attacked without stockpiling it.

However he didn't applied it to the opponent right from the front like what he did until now.

He sent back the retribution's damage directly to inside the enemy body—to the important organ that appeared to be the enemy's core. It was the important point that would be the equivalent of the heart of normal living thing. It was something that acted as the source of magic power and life energy for mythological beast.

Anyway, the dragon died the moment it passed each other with Ren.

The core of its body should have a hole from being gauged by fang. It was the damage from Goddess Nemesis's authority, Retributive Justice.

「May the judgment of justice come here..... May the judgment of justice come here.....」

He chanted inside his mouth while earnestly dancing to dodge with godspeed's agility.

As the result, a certain amount of beasts and Rokuhara Ren would pass each other and this would repeat again. Each time, the attackers would collapse powerlessly, dead.

The core of the defeated beasts would instantly weather down and turned into dust.

He didn't stockpile Retributive Justice. He would send retribution each time he was attacked and made the opponent died instantly. It was a new battle tactic.

「I did similar thing in Hyperborea's realm of the dead too and lost but..... It would be better if I did it like this too at that time.」

Ren bragged. Goddess Nemesis's phantom was snuggling close on his back.

Her ice blue hair was stretching long, her peerless beautiful face was hidden by a mask. The crimson robe she wore and her pure white wings displayed a purity that weren't inferior even when compared to any kind of angel.

Not even ten minutes had passed since the battle began.

However, more than 200 beasts were already annihilated.

『How clever of you, Rokuhara Ren! In that case, I shall accept your challenge!』

「Oops. The other side also sent their rook piece forward huh.」

One dragon flapped its wings powerfully and flew toward Ren.

Furthermore—that huge body was wrapped with bursting sparks and arrived with a godspeed that was like lightning. Yes. Its speed was equal to Rokuhara Ren who was skilled at running away.

Athena granted godspeed to her subordinate in a serious attempt to bring down Ren.

It was just right after Ren lightly jumped in order to dodge the fist of an angel type giant who was punching at him from the front.

At this rate the dragon's front leg would strike him when he reached the summit of his jump.

And then, he would be torn apart by the very sharp claws. But Ren—manipulated time. He dropped the falling speed of his body that

jumped in godspeed.

\*Sha——!\*

The dragon's claw cut empty air.

The space that it cut with the full power swing of its claws should be where Rokuhara Ren was located at originally.

「I'll only become a juicy target if I'm just depending on speed! I'm counting on you, Nemesis-san!」

He called to the goddess's phantom snuggling close on his back.

Instantly the dragon that was flying in godspeed was falling to the ground. The Retributive Justice was passed down and its heart inside its body was torn apart. The claw attack that it let out itself was repelled back at it.

Ren grinned.

Shortening the traveling time from point A to point B was godspeed.

In that case, he could also multiply the time it took. If he spent more than thirty seconds to arrive at the spot where originally he only needed one second, how much would be the confusion at the attacker side——.

Varying the tempo at will. Controlling not only speed but also slowness despite the difficulty.

If it was one versus one, then it was an advantage where it just wasn't possible for him to lose.

However, the number of dragon that was bestowed the speed of lightning by the great goddess Athena wasn't just one. The number immediately increased to nine dragons.

The dragons were clad in lightning and spark. They rushed at Ren with godspeed.

It was a fierce attack from nine dragons. Claws. Claws. Tail swinging. Tackle. Bite. Fire breath. Claws. Bite. Claws—.

Ren avoided all of them with a movement that freely controlled the tempo.

At the same time the hearts of the dragons that were granted godspeed were hit by <ruby>Retributive Justice</ruby> counter—.

All of them died and changed into dust. A complete victory. However, nine beasts clad in lightning assaulted once more with a swiftness that rivaled lightning!

As expected, this difference of number was harsh.

If he failed to dodge for even just once, Ren would be torn apart in that instant.

In contrast, Athena could throw away as many pawns as she pleased. She could just wait slowly for Rokuhara Ren's mistake.

.....But, he wouldn't be able to fulfill the role as bait if he didn't hold out here!

「Well, it doesn't seem that Athena can create speedy underling unlimitedly—. I got no choice but going as far as I can!」

Ren smiled fearlessly and whipped himself.

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「Rokuhara-san today is really agile.....no」

Even from a distance Riona was able to sense the condition of her partner who was fighting hard at far away.

It was because she was bonded to him with a bond of retainer. However, his rampage today was somewhat different than before. It already wasn't at the level of 『being in good form』 or 『his movement was sharp』 .

「Has Rokuhara-san powered up compared to before.....」

「So Riona-san, how about your side?」

Aisha asked with a worried look.

She wasn't wearing negligee anymore. She was wearing a flower patterned dress that was pulled up from the bottom of the sea and dried up properly. On top of that she was wearing a blue hijab—a veil that was used by Muslim woman, hiding her hair.

However, Riona couldn't give a good reply. She sighed.

「No good. As expected from the petrification curse of a great goddess, it cannot be dispelled easily even with my technique. I don't know if I can do it even if I take more time.....」

「No way.....」

The two women secretly entered into Athena's island. In addition they came from the opposite direction of the side where Rokuhara Ren landed—at the corner where it was bristling with humanoid statues.

It was an infiltration mission using her goshujin-sama who was rampaging flashily as bait.

The Divine Sword of Salvation had its blade wrapped in a ragged cloth, tied with a cord, and carried on the back of Aisha. Riona was carrying the long spear that the White queen transformed into in her hand and used it in place of a stick.

Like that, she was able to reunite with her friends, and yet,

「Both Julio and Princess Cassandra.....looks like it's impossible cure them.」

Riona's shoulders dropped in dejection.

There were dozens of stone statues that looked like they were formerly human. At a slight distance away, there were two statues that looked exactly like her companions.

Princess Cassandra was in the pose of stepping forward with a determined face.

Behind her Julio was also standing. His expression was covered with distress which was unlike him.

As soon as she discovered them, Riona put a charm on the two stone statues. As the incarnation of Yatagarasu who had achieved even more progress, she attempted to dispel the curse with all her strength, and yet—

The princess and noble youth were still petrified.

「If we can rescue them, then we will also be able to listen the princess's prophecy in more detail, and yet.....」

「Riona-san, a, a monster is also coming this way you know!?!」

It seemed there wasn't even any time to feel depressed.

Riona looked up at the direction where Aisha was pointing at.

A sharp sighted dragon was flying their way with a great speed. Its eyes were bloodshot with fierceness, burning with fighting spirit.

—Should she transform into Yatagarasu and intercepted? Riona hesitated.

If she did that then she would be dragged into melee whether she wanted it or not. The two of them were investigation team. They shouldn't participate in battle. But, in order to protect themselves—

She deliberated for a few seconds. During that time the godslayer lady yelled to the sky.

「So, someone, can anyone please help us-!」



「Aisha-san!? There is no one but enemy here you know!?!」

The dragon swooped down from the sky and opened its jaw widely.

Apparently it planned to breath out flame. Flame could be seen flickering from the depth of its throat.

At that time, a different dragon rushed from the side. It bit at the neck of its comrade that was aiming at Riona and Aisha and they began fighting among themselves!

Riona was dumbfounded.

「Eh, how?」

「Thank you very much! Ah, if everyone else is also doesn't mind, please become our helper pleasee!」

Aisha called out to the sky once more.

Right away many of the beasts started howling in succession with a loud and courageous voice as though they were responding to the appeal from the godslayer.

\*GUUUUOOOOOOOOOOH! GUUUUOOOOOOOOOOH!\*

\* GUOH! GUOH! GUOH! GUOH! GUOH! \*

And then, the infighting between ally was spreading.

The army of the beasts of the end gathered in the island. Around forty percent of them suddenly attacked their comrade with their fangs, claws, fist, and giant body.

The lot who was aiming for a good chance to assault Rokuhara Ren who was fighting alone until now did such thing!

The spray of blood from the infighting spurted everywhere on the land and in the sea. In a sense, it was a gruesome scene that was fitting for the war of

the end.

「.....Could it be, this is Aisha-san's authority?」

「Ah, yes. I have a power to make a lot of friends. Everyone is listening to my 『wish』 very kindly seee.」

The female devil king smiled sweetly. Riona immediately retorted.

「Aisha-san, you said that airily but, in short it's a terrible authority of group brainwashing isn't it!? But, right now it's a big help-. Please keep doing it!」

The existence of godslayer Aisha who became an unexpected windfall.

Even the retainers of Goddess Athena had nearly half their number taken away. If the target were ordinary humans, wouldn't this authority put tens of thousands of people under its sway?

(If she is careless, then a whole country will fall to Aisha-san's hand.....)

Riona somehow comprehended a portion of the reason why she was sealed while getting defiant saying 「With the situation like this then anything goes!」 .

And then, even stranger occurrence was caused by this irregularity—.

『.....fumu』

The eyes of Athena that were floating in the sky.

The long-slit eyes narrowed. It seemed the goddess was ruminating.

『Not just Rokuhara Ren, even the godslayer who should have been buried underworld also showed up. Perhaps I ought to open the door of disasters once more in this case.....』

The voice of the goddess resounded forlornly in the sky. It reverberated solemnly.

『Listen carefully, o vessel of the end—. Bring every evil and calamity to the surface』

「Is it that item!?!」

Riona immediately transformed into a blue swallow.

She climbed up until the height where she could have bird's eye view of the whole island and observed the situation.

An island of only rock. At the center—around where Gorgon's seal was engrave, a gaping hole was created. It was an abyss with diameter around 40-50 meters.

Misty air was gushing forth from the huge hole.

「Uuu. As I thought, that thing really gives me the creeps.....」

Riona felt something similar to negative thought from the mist that was spreading to the air.

Rage. Hatred. Sadness. Resentment. Jealousy. Anyway it was an air that was filled with malice. But, before long the mist that ought to be called as negativity gas scattered everywhere—

One by one they became beasts.

The army of the end that was centered around dragon. Athena increased its production.

This time the number that was born was also around a thousand.

Rokuhara Ren was still continuing to jump around with his godspeed running away and instantly killed a beast each time he crossed one. There were even times when he slaughtered more than ten beasts in less than a minute.

However, his partner Riona understood.

His stamina and magic power, and above all else his focus for controlling the subtlety of godspeed were nearing the limit.

It was also unclear whether the brainwashing of godslayer Aisha would also affect the new army. And then the biggest problem was—

「This is bad! The mysterious super item, the Vessel of the End. Athena fused it with the land of this island-」

Riona descended near his comrade and returned from the form of swallow back to a girl.

Infighting of the beasts was spreading through the island. In the middle of that maelstrom, only the space around the godslaying witch was calm.

Aisha was moving to the side of the stone statues that were formerly human and tilted her head.

「Fu, fused? What do you mean by that?」

「With the vessel fused with the land, it can't be stolen or moved away. We also can't investigate the area slowly, we can only withdraw temporarily for now and think of a new—」

「No Riona-sama.」

Suddenly a nostalgic voice called out.

「You can't retreat from here. The hope is left behind in none other than at the bottom of there.」

「Princess Cassandra!?!」

Riona turned around in astonishment.

The prophet of Troy royal family was behind her when she noticed. The curse of petrification was dispelled and the statue returned into the beautiful princess in the flesh.

And as expected, Julio was also beside the dignified princess in the flesh.

「Looks like this is the time to decide victory and defeat. I'm really late but I too shall lend my strength.」

The leader of Campiones association was overflowing with a quiet fighting spirit and his usual collectedness despite his worn out attire.

# **Chapter 5 – The Last Hope.....?**

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## Part 1

Retributive Justice directly into the vital spot inside the enemy's body.

Nemesis's escaping feet also weren't just merely high speed transportation. It even controlled the speed tempo that enabled a movement with ever-changing appearance that misled the opponent.

The authority that Ren stole from the goddess of justice Nemesis, Retributive Justice.

Methods of use that he never even considered until now flashed inside his head one after another. His body then easily reproduced it in reality.

Thanks to that he didn't bear any wound even now after slaying more than 600 beasts.

(For some reason I've powered up like this.)

Even Ren became self-aware after things reached this point.

—A dragon's jaw charged at him from the front. He jumped lightly. He easily rose to a height of seven or eight meter and easily dodged. The dragon that charged at Ren flopped limply below him and turned into dust.

But, it was dangerous to carelessly jump high just because he could.

Because having no wings, his jump in the air was only following the momentum. After reaching the peak of his jump he could only fall down. He became completely defenseless during that time.

In fact, a dragon was rapidly approaching Ren who was falling.

Furthermore it was clad in lightning—a dragon that was bestowed with godspeed from Athena. The beast that didn't lose in speed even against Rokuhara Ren who was jumping around with speed of lightning caught up to Ren in midair splendidly. Then it should tear apart his body.

However Ren imaged in his mind. Deceleration. Deceleration. Deceleration. Deceleration—.

Speed down. Rokuhara Ren wasn't in godspeed anymore. Seen from the side it would look like he stopped still in midair. Actually he was falling to the ground with the speed of one centimeter per second though.

The godspeed beast lost its target due to this sudden brake.

The lightning clad dragon bit at empty air. Ren accelerated once more. He landed on the dragon's snout and jumped again using it as foothold.

This time he safely landed on the hard ground.

Something fell together with him. It was the corpse of the godspeed dragon that attacked him.

Ren intentionally stood still here. He was immediately showered with flame from three directions. Three dragons flew at him and breathed flame from their mouth all at once.

With Ren's legs, of course he was able to evacuate to a safe area ten meter at the front instantly.

Crimson flame swirled behind Ren who escaped from there. Three dragons fell and crashed on the ground. The core that was their heart should be burning inside their body.

The eyes of Athena that appeared high in the sky—they narrowed in interest.

『A splendid battle. However, soon it will be time that you're running out of breath.』



「I wish you call it as my body getting warmed up instead. I'm someone who does my warm up thoroughly, so this is just right.」

‘Haa, haa, haa, haa.’

His breathing was slightly rough in demand of oxygen. His heart was also beating hard, and the number of his heart rate was also increasing. He was sweating a lot.

If this situation continued, his stamina's limit would suddenly arrive—.

Ren understood that well from his experience as athlete.

Furthermore, Athena who kept hiding herself gave a command to her army. She only sent out her voice elegantly like a queen.

『You have fought well with your lonesome..... Let the godslayer rest for a bit.』

「Uwa. That's really a nasty move.」

Ren spontaneously grumbled with a small voice.

At this kind of time it would be easier for him to maintain his rhythm by moving continuously. If he rested then his tension would unravel and fatigue would flood him all at once.

And then the beasts stopped attacking just like their general ordered.

Several hundred beasts gathered around Ren. Although they sent him fierce gaze and killing intent from everywhere on the ground and at the sky, they didn't come at him at all.

Also, the infighting between the beasts outside this encirclement was still continuing.

The number of beasts that participated in the infighting was most likely several hundreds. Nearly half of that number was the beasts that were pulled to become their ally due to Miss Aisha's authority.

Both camps unhesitatingly attacked their former ally, tearing and biting each other apart.

It was exactly a fight where blood was washed with more blood.

In such battlefield, Rokuhara Ren was given a rest that became a countdown to his death.

‘Haa, haa, haa, haa…….’ His breathing wouldn’t calm down. As expected, his limit would arrive soon—.

(Rokuhara-san!)

(I’ve been waiting. It’ll be great if you bring a good news if possible.)

He still had the composure to show joking attitude at the telepathy from Riona. However, the reply from his partner was really cruel.

(Then I’ll start from the bad news. Please do your best as bait for a bit more.)

(Whoops. Soon it gonna be dangerous at my side though.)

(It can’t be helped. This is a request from Princess Cassandra after all.)

(Eh—?)

(Julio also said that this is the time where victory and defeat will be decided. He also said that he will send reinforcement to Rokuhara-san.)

(In other words, the two of them are saved!?)

It was a good news that breathed in energy into his body that was running out of breath.

Ren grinned and stared at the eyes of Athena floating in the sky provocatively.

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「To think that the petrified Julio and the princess can be cured this easily.....」

Riona grumbled. She glared at Aisha who was smiling sweetly.

「The authority of healing—furthermore it's the super ability of a godslayer-sama. Please tell me faster if you have something like that! You don't know how worried I was back there!」

「I'm sorry~. I myself didn't have the confidence whether I would be able to dispel a goddess's curse~」

Aisha's smiling face looked really deceptive.

Surely this person was forever unrelated toward something like stomach pain that came from anxiety and worry. Riona obtained painfully realization that the person before him was an unequalled trickster even among the parallel universes.

Even the authorities she had were nasty things like incurring good luck, mass brainwashing, and almighty healing.

「Really, it just like what Campiones' ancestor said, she is a person who is like Parupunte.....」 (TN: A spell in Dragon Quest that can only be used in battle and caused completely random effect)

「Indeed.」

The one who agreed with her was that person's descendant, Julio Blandelli.

「But, the divine sword that sleeping beauty-dono brought for us—it's an unbelievable gift. I can see a chance with this.」

Julio stabbed two weapons into the ground.

The long spear that his protector the White Queen transformed into. And then the Divine Sword of Salvation. It was said to be the sword that was bestowed to the hero of devil king extermination.

「Come to think of it, Julio's ancestor was also a godslayer-sama.....」

「Yea. Information regarding this divine sword was written in the grimoire that had been held dear for generations by Campiones association. .... There are gods with deep relation to 『steel sword』 like war god Ares or hero Achilles. Many of them are male and conqueror. They are called the hero of steel—it's said that only those with the supreme status even among them has the qualification to wield the Divine Sword of Salvation.....」

Julio pulled out the spear of the queen.

The tip was cracked with a worn out look. The blade was also chipped here and there. It was full of defect.

In contrast, the divine sword for the world's salvation didn't have a single scratch. It was filled with cool and clear platinum radiance. Julio softly pushed the spear's tip on that heavenly blade.

「You see, actually our queen also has that qualification.」

「Eh? That person, what kind of person she actually is!?!」

Riona was shocked. Julio was calm to the end, even so he answered powerfully.

「—She isn't a person. She is a god, furthermore she is a raging war god. The queen who ruled the country of female warriors that is told with the name of Amazon in Greek mythology! The queen who governed over horse and spear and knight, that is her true identity!」

「My, Amazon's queen!?! They are a sworn ally of us people of Troy!」

Cassandra who was also a residence of myth let out a sigh of admiration.

The divine sword and long spear that were under the gaze of everyone. The two blades came into contact—and a light enveloped the two of them. It was a dazzling but clear white light.

And then, the two weapons became one.

The long spear that was full of scratches. That spear tip was replaced with the blade of the Divine Sword of Salvation. It was a flawless masterpiece without a single nick on it.

The blade was thick and double-edged like a hatchet, containing platinum radiance—.

Julio swung the reborn long spear and threw it to the sky like doing a javelin throw.

「I don't know if it's the truth or a lie, but there is also a theory that the sword of salvation was the origin of the legend of Excalibur! Receive that power and go rampage, queen!」

『Leave it to me, o beloved child!』

The gallant voice of the White Queen thundered from the soaring long spear.

\*GOuuuuuuNN!\*

The spear was flying while making thundering sound like lightning.

The queen came in front of Riona in total exhaustion right after the end of the world. However right now the armament that should be called as Divine Spear of Salvation was overflowing with divine aura.

The divine sword that was absorbed shared its vitality with the spear.

The divine spear that was flying just like lightning arrived at the location of the beasts that were surrounding Rokuhara Ren in a speed that eye couldn't follow. It pierced the enemies in succession.

The beasts of the end—dragon, angel, Behemoth, and others. Their vital spots were pierced.

The moment the spear tip hit, a hole was opened in the beasts' body. Torso, neck, chest, etc, the spear stabbed into everything it could reach and then penetrated through.

After slaughtering one beast, it would immediately fly to the next beast. It continued to zigzag in the air.

Dozens of beasts were already slaughtered in three minutes. Riona's impression went past admiration and became exasperation in the middle.

「That's already more like a rampaging brutish spear!」

「It seems that all users of sword of salvation were powerful enemy who drove my ancestor Caesar into a corner. This violent rampage is understandable instead.」

Julio commented. Beside him Cassandra hurried them.

「Now Riona-sama! This is our chance!」

As expected from the Troy princess who came from a military family, she was sensitive to the flow of battle.

With the reinforcement of the flying around divine spear, the burden of Riona's goshujin-sama should also be reduced. Riona finally transformed into Yatagarasu and dashed to the azure sky.

「We will take a look at the inside of that thing!」

She flapped her golden wings and flew into the ground.

To be more accurate, she went into the inside of the divine tool, the vessel of the end that was fused with the land and opened its mouth—.

「Kuuuuuuh! This is a terribly disgusting place!」

The inside of the vessel was filled to the brim with misty grey gas.

Riona—Yatagarasu's sight turned dark.

The inside of the Vessel of the End was a vast space. However, there was only grey mist filling it, so it was also a pointless use of space.

Riona flew straight toward the deepest part.

That was all. And yet it was terribly tiring. This grey gas, the “aura of evil” was overflowing in here. Hatred. Envy. Anger. Misfortune. Unexpected death. Sickness. Calamity. Despair—.

Even for the sacred bird Yatagarasu, it was a big burden to come into contact with this overflowing ominous air.

「Secret words of fire and sun, I ask you to purify and cleanse every impure sin!」

Golden light surged from the whole body of Yatagarasu.

By enveloping her body in the “aura of sun” as the spirit of sun, she repelled the negative aura. Like that, she finally arrived at the deepest part.

「I found it, something that look important!」

At the bottom, there was an object that looked similar with an ellipse egg. It was faintly shining.

However even though it was shining, the light was dull and really inconspicuous. This must be the item that Princess Cassandra meant when she said 『Anyway please go take something located in the bottom of this!』 .

Riona unleashed her telekinesis and drew the ellipse object toward herself.

It was recovered into the feathers of Yatagarasu. After that she climbed up in full speed, in order to escape from the space that only had grey mist for even a second faster—.

The hole that was opened at the zenith was none other than the entrance of the Vessel of the End.

Yatagarasu flew out from there and somehow landed on the ground.

「Mission complete! Everyone, please start evacuating!」

Riona gave out the call in the sky of Athena's island.

Her goshujin-sama should also reach his limit soon. There was no need to stay longer than this.

.



## Part 2

『So they got away.....』

Athena's beautiful voice echoed in the azure sky.

Only the eyes of the great goddess were floating above the island that she personally created. They looked around the new world where the time of dawn continued forever.

The herd of beasts on the island below was resting their body. They numbered several hundreds.

The party of Rokuhara Ren and godslayer Aisha was already gone. As expected from the bunch that possessed Nemesis's escaping feet and the golden sacred bird. They splendidly escaped from Athena's base.

There would be no meaning even if she sent pursuer.

And then, those guys stole something away from the Vessel of the End—.

『.....As I thought, I have to be the one personally subjugating them. Even though the dawn of the new world has finally arrived, there is still this trouble.』

Athena's spiritual sense warned her.

It would be dangerous if she didn't destroy what was stolen and obliterate the godslayers.

Fortunately the rebirth of the world had ended. The body of Athena who rested in preparation for the next stage would also soon—

『Depart now, my army.』

The goddess's eyes vanished from the sky that was dyed azure.

In exchange, the snake haired Athena in a girl form finally manifested right above the symbol of Gorgon carved at the center of the island she used as her bed.

Athena who finally revived her material body pointed at the west.

「Beyond this sea it will become the last battlefield. O crowd of beasts that summon the end, advance together with me. Become the cornerstone that build the new world and die.」

It was the queen's instruction that was merciless as well as powerful.

In respond to that, the beasts that filled this island let out ferocious howls one after another.

\*GUuuuooooOOOOOOOH! GUuuuooooOOOOOOOH!  
GUuuuooooOOOOOOOH! GUuuuooooOOOOOOOH!\*

Athena listened to the thundering howls in pleasure while——

Her immature body lightly floated to the air. She flew at the front as the general that was leading the whole army, in order to raid the enemy territory together with the army of giant beasts.

「We shall settle this before the dawn breaks, godslayers!」

.

They managed to scurry away from Athena's island——

Rokuhara Ren and friends were transported by Yatagarasu's wings and somehow returned to the small island where they set their base camp.

Naturally, there was also this kind of scene when they had calmed down.

As soon she arrived on the island's beach, Cassandra broke into tears from feeling deeply moved and leaped at Ren.

「Ren-sama, I wished to meet you!」

「Me too. I'm happy to be able to meet you again like——」

「Yes yes! The moving reunion is nice and all, but remember that right now is emergency-」

The one who poured cold water to the embrace of the two was Riona whose eyes were glaring.

Ren and Cassandra were giving atmosphere like a western movie couple that would move into a reunion kiss, so Riona gave addition request.

「Please stop there with the hug and flirting, goshujin-sama!」

「My. Riona-sama, really.」

Cassandra reluctantly separated from Ren. She muttered in dissatisfaction.

「Even though you were monopolizing Ren-sama for yourself until now.....」

「Princess too, stop with the unjust suspicion-. Ju, just because I was alone with Rokuhara-san, it doesn't mean that we had committed any mistake!」

「In other words, there was no night mistake happening?」

Riona who couldn't retort back calmly. The Troy princess who was a cut above her.

And then when it came to Ren, he was nodding while going 'yep yep'.

「I guess. I too have graduated from rashly committing such fooling around since a long time ago. As I thought, doing something like that has to be accompanied with proper feeling. Right Riona?」

「Do, don't ask me about something like that-」

「? Sorry Ren, but I don't really understand what are you three talking about right now.」

Julio who was the only one making a dubious face said.

「There are several points that cannot be explained logically unless romantic feeling is formed between Ren and Riona. But, such thing should be impossible forevermore.....」

「No no, Julio. You won't be able to understand what will happen between two people so——」

「Rokuhara-san too, enough with speaking needlessly like that-!」

It was a conversation between friends that was really lively.

On the left shoulder of Ren who was at the center of that, a nostalgic tiny goddess suddenly appeared. It was the thirty centimeter tall Stella.

The goddess of beauty and love crossed her legs haughtily and commented from Ren's shoulder.

「.....Looks like the situation has become a little bit better.」

「My my!? How adorable!」

Aisha who was watching the lively Ren and others with a warm smile.

She drew closer until beside Ren and sent a heated gaze toward the doll sized Stella.

「To think that Rokuhara-san has a companion this small! Excuse me, I am Aisha, someone who aid your master with love and courage-」

「Aa, yes yes. Well, you seem to be a godslayer too, I'm expecting a lot from you.」

「Uuu. That unfriendly attitude is making her irresistible instead!」

Aisha didn't look bothered even with Stella's treatment to her.

Unexpectedly there might be a lot of times when she was treated unkindly. In any case, Ren spoke to his other self who he was finally reunited with.

「Looks like Stella too has gotten better, I'm relieved.」

「It took quite some time but, I managed somehow.」

Stella sat on Ren's left shoulder and shrugged.

Her face turned slightly sullen and she whispered into his ear.

「During that time, Ren you, it looked like you were playing a lot with the bird girl.....」

「Hahahaha. Isn't it fine? After all me and Stella, and then Riona and Cassandra too are like the crews of the same ship.」

「My past that makes me unable to complain to such Ren is hateful.....」

Stella sighed 'haa' before vanishing with a pop.

This time she appeared at the ground, on the sandy beach. The spoil of war that they brought back was placed on there.

An egg shaped object that was twice as big as Stella—.

It had dull scarlet color and shining faintly. It was recovered from the divine tool the Vessel of the End. Stella knocked several times on its smooth surface.

「And.....why is it something like this will become hope?」

「Ah, yes. Actually I too—don't know the detail.」

Cassandra confessed timidly.

「I felt it when talking with Julio-sama. The item sinking in the bottom of that vessel will become the last hope, somehow.....」

「Co, come to think of it princess, what you said to me.」

Riona spoke with slight bewilderment.

「There should be something at the bottom, so please take it. It was really vague..... I thought that it was because it was a prophecy and Apollo's curse activated.」

「My apologize.....」

Cassandra shrunk back and apologized.

Riona already inspected the item. Ren and Aisha too had tried touching it, knocking it, lifting it to the sky, but the “mysterious egg” didn't show any reaction.

The wisest person among these members, Toba Riona muttered with a pondering face.

「Nnn. I wish there is a hint on how to use this. At the very least, if we understand what kind of history that divine tool called the Vessel of the End has—. What kind of god and mythology that item originated from.....」

「No good, there is no time to think! Look at the eastern sky!」

The partner that was riding on his shoulder suddenly warned them.

They wasted no time to look around the surrounding restlessly. They immediately realized which way was the east. At the horizon of one direction, the sun was showing its face there without them noticing.

A golden halo—Only its upper end appeared above the sea. It was emitting the first light of the day!

The new world was gradually dyed with rose color.

Even though all this time the sky was the color of azure mixed with rose color as though it was before dawn.

Right now the sky was illuminated with the morning glow and the sky became colored with only rose color. At this rate the sky would gradually turn brighter. Before long the night would completely leave and become morning—.

Stella spoke out with a desperate face.

「When the morning come then it will finally be the beginning of the new world! If that happen then even changing the reformed world back to normal that you all talked about will become impossible. Because the present situation where everything is renewed will be fixed as the 『world's present』 .....!」

「In any case it means that the time limit is close.」

Ren muttered.

「It feels like we won't make it in time if we ruminate slowly but, how is it Riona!？」

「That's why, there is no way the answer will come that easily——!」

When Riona was at her wits' end, there was someone who muttered.

「I understand it.」

「Eh——!? Seriously Julio!？」

The other smart member nodded at the shocked Riona.

「A long time ago, not even the slightest malice existed in the world where humans lived. It was a wonderful and peaceful utopia. There was a beautiful girl somewhere. The gods bestowed a single box to the girl. It was the box that contained every kind of calamity.....the girl was warned to absolutely never open it and yet, the girl opened it.」

Julio suddenly started talking about a folk tale.

He didn't even pay any mind to the bewilderment of the other members and spoke further.

「Every kind of evil and disaster flew out from the box. The peaceful world immediately became a world of suffering that was stained with hardship and suffering—. However, thanks to the hope that is still remaining at the bottom of the box, human can live without despairing.....」

It was a tale that even Ren had heard before. Riona immediately spoke.

「Julio. Isn't that Pandora Box?」

「Yeah.」

The leader of Campiones immediately confirmed.

「Based on what I know, that's the item that is the most appropriate to be the true identity of the Vessel of the End.」

「But, that vessel should be an item that is directly related to world destruction.」

Riona muttered.

「I've never heard that Pandora Box is related to such end of century event at—」

「No. The key is Deucalion's Flood. The Greek mythology version of flood myth that was strongly influenced by Noah's Ark. It seems you forget but, Pandora is Deucalion's aunt and mother-in-law.」

「Ah—I see.」

Riona gasped with a face of understanding. It seemed she managed to understand.

Julio continued explaining further.



「The husband of Pandora who opened the box was Epimetheus. The little brother of the wise man Prometheus. Prometheus possessed foresight, he was a great sage who foresighted the future. Teaching mankind how to use fire was also Prometheus's great work. But, because he was supporting human too much, all the gods starting from Zeus denounced him.」

「The son of the wise man Prometheus was Deucalion! He took Pandora's daughter as wife!」

Riona finally joined into Julio's talk.

「Deucalion was told by his future knowing father that one day there will be a great flood. That was why he created an ark and prepared against the disaster. The timeline of Pandora Box until Deucalion's Flood was actually only separated by the alternation of generations from parent to son. So it's like that, Julio!？」

「Yeah.」

Julio nodded.

「From that viewpoint, I think it won't be that much of a problem even if you interpret that Pandora Box destroyed the world. After all the utopia that never got touched by any disaster at all until then was ruined to the degree that it invited god's anger in just a single generation.」

The myth investigation by the brainy faction.

Ren was impressed 'I see, so it was like that' and muttered.

「From that story, Pandora Box is also an item that reformed the world isn't it? After all it drastically changed human world that was peaceful like heaven to that degree.」

「Aa——certainly that's true.」

Riona who brought up that subject before agreed.

「And then, hope was left behind in the box.....」

「What kind of hope this thing can become for us—. Anyway let's test it.」

Ren faced the egg shaped object placed on the beach once more.

He reached out and tried touching it. What would happen now they knew the name of Pandora that was most likely a keyword for this item?

At the next instant, the surrounding scenery changed completely.

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## Part 3

Rokuhara Ren was standing in an unknown place.

Grey colored sky was stretching until the horizon. That was it. Below where he was stepping on was also a grey colored surface. It wasn't even definite that the floor was a ground.

Even though he should be in the island that was their base in the world post destruction just several seconds ago!

His comrades also weren't here——no.

「Why is it only Aisha-san here with me?」

「Perhaps, it's because we are the only one called here. To this boundary of life and immortality.....」

“Godslayer” Aisha who was the only one beside Ren looked calm.

Her atmosphere was the usual gentle air. She was looking around restlessly in nostalgia. It seemed she was used to this strange space.

「What kind of place this is, Aisha-san?」

「Unlike the real world——this place is like a spirit world. In actuality we won't be able to visit here unless we're an existence of only mind or soul. But, people like amazing magician or us can come here with our flesh body.」

If by us she meant the people who murdered god then,

Aisha looked around restlessly as though she was searching for someone.

「Various special things happen here. For example, a god can intentionally come out from the domain of immortality and has a meeting with their arch-enemy godslayer.....ah, as I thought.」

When he noticed there was someone ahead of the gaze of the former sleeping beauty.

A woman who seemed to be a lady was sitting on a chair with armrest and feet decorated in gold.

She was clad in ancient garment that looked really similar like Stella's attire. A veil that was worn to cover the head was hiding her face's upper half.

「Hey, you two.」

The veiled lady spoke to them.

Her figure sitting on the chair possessed refinement like a cat. She looked really sensual. However, her voice contained a childish reverberation somewhere in it.

「How much do you know about Prometheus brothers? They were a member of Titan race, the elder brother was especially a great man who was even recognized by Lord Zeus. He was a man with foresight that saw through to the future. Furthermore he was also an owner of intellect that could deceive even god.」

She suddenly recited a myth. Ren stared fixedly at the lady.

For some reason he felt nostalgia as though he was encountering a close relative.

「The name Prometheus means someone who think ahead. And, the name of his little brother Epimetheus means someone who think later. Unlike his elder brother, he was thought as a fool who took action without thinking of the consequence. But, actually the same can also be said about you two isn't it?」

「I and Aisha-san?」

「But of course. A human who is even the slightest smart won't even think about picking a fight with god, much less murdering one—. You godslayers are a gathering of unequalled fools. Even though there is no blood relationship, there is nothing wrong with considering all of you as being related to Epimetheus. You all are the illegitimate children of the fool.」

The lady verbally abused them with unfavorable comment without reservation.

Her mouth that wasn't hidden by the veil was smiling. However, it wasn't like a mocking smile, but in Ren's opinion it was a smile that came from deep affection.

「It's a coincidence but, I too am someone who is most often to be used as example of a foolish woman. As the woman who opened the Pandora Box that mustn't be opened! Really, don't you think that it's a rude story? Even though it's always the fool's anger and barbarism that change the world!」

「As I thought, you're Pandora-kaasama!」

Aisha called the lady in a surprising way.

Ren was taken aback. His fellow godslayer smiled widely at him.

「Most gods hate the very sight of us but, Goddess Pandora is different. She is giving us care as the step-mother who watch over all godslayers!」

「Yes. What can be done by fools who are jeered by society—」

Pandora spoke boldly with a face that boasted a peerless beauty.

「You won't be satisfied unless you show them all won't you? That's why I give a lot of support to my family the godslayers.」

「That's why you are our mother huh.....」

Ren felt deeply moved and stared at the lady once again.

「I thought that Pandora-san is a human though?」

「That was what was told by ancient Achaioi people, that Pandora is a human woman created by god. But, the truth is different. I too am one of the olden great gods. But the people of later time rewrote my tale to make it so that it “didn’t exist”——」

The lady’s veil was blown away by itself.

What appeared was a beautiful face that seemed to be at later half of teen age. But, even though it was a childish face, it was filled with mature composure and allure that was perfect as a woman.

「In that respect Pandora and Athena are in similar circumstance. She had her past as snake goddess Gorgon hushed up and remade as Zeus’s filial daughter. That’s why even if she brought out a divine tool that originated from me——Pandora, I didn’t really have any intention of interfering. But, right now is different.」

Pandora whispered with a smile that contained bewitchment.

「Fufufufu. I am always the allies of my cute children no matter when..... Well, toward someone cowardly who give up fighting by themselves then I’ll abandon them with no question asked, but that’s something that I will never do no matter what toward all of you godslaying beasts. Now, receive the assistance of your mother!」

「Thank you, Okaa-san!」

They had only just met but Ren said that without reservation. And then he noticed.

「We can contact Okaa-san like this, is it thanks to the hope we picked up from the box?」

「Yes. You did great. I’ll teach you how to use it. The rest will depend on your own capability. Do it well.」

An egg shaped object appeared on the right hand of step mother Pandora.

The item that Cassandra prophesized as hope. The surface was scarlet and it was containing a dull shine. However right now it suddenly became a dazzlingly shining thing.

Ren took it and gasped.

The moment he held it, “what should be done” floated in his mind.

Aisha must be feeling the same sensation. She was nodding with a face that was filled with motivation. Pandora gazed on her two adopted children and spoke in satisfaction.

「Right right. 『Destiny』 and 『history』 tend to hate the godslaying beasts because they keep getting toyed around by you all but—it looks like this time only they will assist you reluctantly. Like sending the sword of salvation. There won't be any harm remembering that.....」

The voice of their step mother was gradually getting further.

The surrounding was also gradually getting darker. Before long it was completely dark. Ren's consciousness was fading and he realized he was returning back to reality.

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「.....ra-san! Rokuhara-san!」

「Aisha-sama too, please get a hold of yourself!」

It seemed Ren had been standing still in a daze all this time.

His consciousness rapidly cleared up hearing Riona and Cassandra's voice.

Aisha seemed to be in similar state. Julio was shaking her shoulder. The awakened godslayers gasped and looked at each other.

「Do you remember about Okaa-sama, Ren-san!?!」

「Of course. With this we have no choice but to do it, Aisha-san.」

「Sorry to disturb while both of you are getting heated up but—we are also entering the climax over here. Quickly prepare to intercept.」

Julio dispassionately said that and pointed to a direction.

It must be east. The sun was moving to finish the sunrise without any hindrance. The ball of light that looked blurry on the horizon had appeared half out.

The circle's outer circumference, only the slight lowest part of the sun was being hidden by the sea surface.

The morning should be completed in just ten more minutes.

But, even this magnificent daybreak was nothing more than a background. An army of beasts that numbered more than a thousand was deployed in the sky with the rising sun as their background.

The whole army was gradually approaching this way.

The great goddess Athena flew at the lead, overflowing with the majesty of a great general.

It was finally the final critical moment. Ren glanced below him. The egg shaped object, the hope was placed there. The shine of its surface wasn't dull anymore.

The hope of Pandora was shining radiantly.

「Let's begin. We got to make various counterattacks ourselves.」

「Yes! Like they say, render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's!」

The two godslayers nodded to each other, then Ren picked up the hope.

The egg shaped object immediately became a wooden box. It was a small box the size of his palm but it was profoundly heavy. He then threw it with



all his strength toward the sea.

While glaring at the army of beasts and Athena who were approaching this way.....

Of course Ren's physical strength was that of an ordinary person, so the small box was falling in an arc and sank into the sea with a splash. However.

The small box that normally would float on the sea was—instantly enlarging enormously.

It was a rectangle box. The length must be around 40-50 meter. Furthermore the inside of the box was completely hollow like an abyss with spreading darkness.

Cassandra was the first one to notice.

「Ren-sama! Perhaps this is the vessel of Pandora-sama that I learn from hearsay—」

「Yep. We also had received permission from its original owner to remake it. But the inside is empty, it has to be stuffed back from now.」

This time Ren yelled at the top of his voice.

「Now. The air of all evils that called calamity—come back to your original place!」

『How shallow you are, Rokuhara Ren.』

Athena's voice came from the sky.

She was flying at the forefront right now leading her whole army. She let out a godly voice toward Ren's struggle.

『It doesn't matter even if you have prepared the same container like the Vessel of the End, it's not enough with just that. After all these beasts has

accepted my rule since a long time ago. There is no way they will return to inside the cage by their own——』

「Well, I guess it's just as you say.....」

Ren easily recognized it. That's right.

In the original story of Pandora Box too, just because there was hope remaining didn't mean that the story ended nicely.

Disease and disaster ran rampant in the world, but let's live while holding a small hope in your chest. The story ended with that kind of nuance.

That was why, it wasn't enough at all with just this——.

「It's my work from here. ....Nemesis shall hand down divine punishment to evil deed that harms life. May the judgment of justice come here——」

Rokuhara Ren set to control cause and effect with his body and soul on the line.

His fellow godslayer Aisha also joined her hands in front of her chest as though in a prayer and began to earnestly chant.

「Even good person will meet evil while it's still not the right time for good results. One will meet goodness when they arrive at the time good results ripen. Good results should accompany good person. Bad results should accompany bad person.....」

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## Part 4

The army of beasts spreading out behind Athena. Their number was nearly a thousand strong.

However, that army was in great chaos right now.

Countless small light spheres gushed out and followed around the beats, several hundred of light spheres for each one of them. The great number of light was flying around speedily and toyed around with the magical beasts of Athena.

Ren observed that scene while whispering from the ground.

「It was you all who became the trigger that created this kind of hollow world. For the hundred millions, trillions of lives that vanished, all of you have committed evil. I'll have you all receive the proper punishment.」

Many beasts swung their claws and arms around to shake off the light spheres.

They bit and wriggled their whole body. But, it didn't do anything. While the light spheres were following them around, the fierce beasts were all losing strength limply—

They were carried to the sea spreading below them.

Pandora's empty box was floating there with its mouth opened.

Carried by the countless small lights, the beasts were sucked into the box one after another.

The light that realized such feat—. Every single one of them was punishment. Punishment toward the sin of taking away the lives above

earth.....

「I'm counting on you, Nemesis-san.」

Ren called out to the goddess of justice to execute the retribution toward evil deed.

「The culprit who annihilated all living things.....the beats of the end, grant them the fitting punishment together with me!」

Goddess Nemesis's phantom always appeared behind Ren.

But this time she manifested at far above his head in the air. Her size was also completely different. Her height was enormous. It was a grand size that reached several hundred meters.

She wasn't inferior at all even when facing the army of beast that Athena was leading from the opposite side—.

The pure white wings stretched out widely. That divine figure was overflowing with the majesty of a great goddess that descended to the world of the Revelation.

Ren whispered toward his authority that was manifested.

「Of course, we mankind has committed considerable evil and original sin and things. But, we shouldn't have committed a sin so great yet that we need to be swept clean from earth so suddenly. And all lives other than mankind aren't involved at all.....」

And yet, the divine punishment in the form of great flood and world-destroying conflagration descended on the whole earth.

The main cause that became the catalyst that called down those. It was undoubtedly the Vessel of the End—which was to say the beasts that were liberated from Pandora Box by Athena.

The embodiment of evil heart, negative aura, calamity, and disease.

The sin and ominous present of the beasts became the trigger for the divine punishment. That was exactly why the Retributive Justice worked. Ren was convinced.

At this rate all the beasts could be returned into the box if Athena didn't do any interference.

And then the great goddess in question was——

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「Tsk! For a god of steel sword to be invited here!」

「I shall have you accompany me in a match for a while. I too was once someone who commanded an army. I lack nothing for a face-off against the goddess of war!」

She was rushing around the sky while in the middle of a duel.

Athena whose hair was growing snakes had owl wings grown from her back. She was skillfully swinging around a large scythe that looked similar with a death god's possession.

The enemy that deflected it with a long spear or blocked it with a large shield was a female knight.

Straddling a white horse that was rushing through the sky, her body was protected by a brilliant white armor——.

The White Queen who was once the leader of Amazon clan and the protector of Blandelli clan. She manifested in material body after so long and flew around freely.

It was in order to block the way of Athena who tried to hurry toward Rokuhara Ren on the ground.

The blade of divine spear in the queen's hand was shining.

「Now. O spear tip that was bestowed to me from the sword of salvation, release your strength!」

The tip of spear that was pointed to the sky was the blade of the Divine Sword of Salvation.

The blade emitted platinum light radiantly. Multiple streaks of lightning were fired from there and attacked Athena. The great goddess of snake and owl summoned a shield immediately.

An ellipse shield with the face of snake haired monster woman Gorgon carved on it—.

The divine shield floated in the air even without any hand holding it. It became a barrier that protected its master from the approaching lightning. The two eyes of Gorgon that was engraved on the shield surface shined dimly.

All the lightning strikes that were fired by the divine spear were erased.

However the White Queen grinned fiercely and continued firing lightning strikes without rest.

Athena frowned while being protected by Gorgon's shield.

「Damn you. So the legend associated with the sword of salvation is the truth as expected. This sword containing inexhaustible lightning that appear in the end of the world—!」

Right now the number of beasts was reduced with great momentum at the sky of the battlefield.

They were being brought to Pandora's empty box without being able to resist due to Goddess Nemesis's authority. Tiny light spheres gathered in innumerable number and sealed in the beasts of the end.

A feat this stunning, even the godslayer shouldn't—

「He shouldn't be able to do this. ....I see. So you even make use of fate and history that loathe the godslaying beast as their arch-enemy, Rokuhara Ren! And then Aisha!」

Athena saw through the trick of the matter.

She spoke of her rage and compliment to the two who were exerting their authority on the ground while wracking her brain.

As expected, the godslayers were powerful enemy and obstacle. She had to somehow respond with a counterattack.

「.....Know the fury of the goddess of shining eyes, the glorious Athena. Olympus shall rumble by the means of the vehement authority of the shining eye glint. The sky shall quake in fear and the land shall shake. O ocean, make clamor and seethe with surging billow——」

Athena slightly moved her beautiful lips and began chanting with a small voice.

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.....Although she looked like a lovely girl, Aisha was a fearless fighter.

Of course, her body and her heart were still youthful. She was an existence who was acknowledged by everyone to be eternally a girl, forever seventeen years old, but actually she was a veteran who lived in the same era with her fellow godslayers the 『marquis』 and 『sect founder』 .

She had also gone to numerous mythological worlds frequently.

Recently she was falling off contact, but she had also experienced even time travel.

Extraordinary existence like godslayer also had many chances to travel to unworldly place. Just like what Rokuhara Ren did.

That was why, Aisha knew very well.

「History is like a tale with fixed plot—. Even if a time traveler make a mess that change history, the corrective force will take action without fail and turn that change into “something that never happen”. History progress just like has been decided.....」

Aisha was muttering with a quietness that was like a prayer.

Yes. Even if a historically important person was saved by time travel and they didn't die in the time where they should die originally,

That person would tragically die several days later or several years later, then history would advance following the proper plot.

That was the “secret of the world” that Aisha knew. Unlike SF novel, time paradox or parallel world didn't exist in the world where she was living.

All of it was because the corrective force doing something about it somehow!

.....Well, though when Aisha encountered the demigod who ought to be called as the protector of history who governed over that power, that person expressed a mountain of grudges at her.

『Damn you! This accursed witch who mess around with the flow of proper history as you please! You accursed absolute moron who are especially unable to grasp any discretion even among the foolish godslayers! I want to say that I will never lend you witch a hand even if hell freeze over but, I can't say that only at this time!』

Actually even now it felt like she could faintly hear such verbal abuse.....

Most likely it was only Aisha who heard that. She lost it because of a certain circumstance but, in the past she also had the authority of time travel, so her instinct in that aspect was sharp.

In any case right now the power of correcting history was being sent from beyond time and space.

Toward Aisha and Rokuhara Ren—.



Her compatriot the young man was attempting to do Retributive Justice in the scale that surpassed the limit of his power, and yet he was showing result. It was the corrective force of history that was giving him a push.

It was absolutely obligated to correct the arrival of future that annihilated earth and mankind.

And then, Aisha too was also assisting him.

「Grace for fortunate person, please grant it to Ren-san too. Good results should accompany those who do good. One who attempt to do the supreme good, ought to be given the supreme protection.....!」

Aisha possessed the authority to beckon the good fortune closer.

One way to apply it was the secret special skill that granted protection of good fortune to someone. Well, the recoil from it was also great so she rarely did it but, surely it would be fine if it was him. Perhaps.

「Ren-san! Please take care of the finishing touch!」

「Leave it to me. Thanks to Aisha-san, I don't feel like I'll fail no matter what I do.」

Rokuhara Ren who was wielding his authority beside her grinned fearlessly.

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Thus, Ren was convinced.

That the current him was the luckiest person in the history of earth. Everything would go well no matter what he did. Even without him doing anything it would go well—.

「Perhaps, even if there is an assassin that come targeting me」

He could sense the feel of good fortune following him around. Ren muttered.

「The me right now won't even need to drive the assassin back.....」

「Yes. It will be a lucky man development where the assassin will stumble by himself and his knife will stab its owner from the momentum.」

「Ah. I have that kind of experience several times you know~」

When Riona threw such interjection, Aisha too replied carefreely.

It looked like they were lacking in tension. But, this was also because they were currently succeeding in reversing the situation. The air of the battlefield was changing.

The army of beasts Athena was leading—

All of them were finally dragged into Pandora's empty box.

Right now, there was only a pair of people fighting in the sky before daybreak.

The White Queen who was wielding the spear of salvation together with her flying war horse. The goddess Athena who was full with majesty as though all the sky was her throne, wings of owl spreading on her back.

Even now lightning strikes were being fired like raging waves from the divine spear the queen was wielding.

The shield of Gorgon that was floating in the air erased all of those lightning. Furthermore, Athena who controlled the shield was showing a composed smile before they knew it.

「Your momentum is dropping slightly there, white knight!」

「What, even that is not a problem! Charging as far as one can and leaving the rest to comrades in arms is also chivalry!」

「Fufufufu! I don't hate such spirit!」

The two female fighters both persisted in offense and defense while continuing to clash head-on.

Julio watched their fight and murmured.

「Certainly, the queen's strength is decreasing. She will be at her limit of buying time for us, Ren.」

「Roger. I'll try to hit her hard with full power.」

「Ren-sama——」

Cassandra called out when it was finally time.

「I cannot see the future ahead of Ren-sama's attempt after this. But, I believe that it will surely go well.....!」

「Thank you. I'll turn your words into a prophecy without fail.」

Ren gave a thumb up and responded to his beloved girl.

Then he stared at the sea stretching before his eyes, at the Pandora's empty box floating there. Everything that was let out to the world in the shape of beast army had returned completely.

It wasn't an empty box anymore——.

It was in a state that wasn't in any way inferior when Athena used it as the Vessel of the End.

「.....Let's do the judgment of justice one more time, Nemesis-san.」

The phantom of Nemesis was still overhead. She looked just like an archangel.

「Pandora Box is an item that reform the world——. It changed a peaceful world without any calamity to become a dangerous place where malice runs rampant. It made aura of evil to infest the surface and changed the world

into one where flame and flood come down as divine punishment. It annihilated all lives from this world.....」

The words that enumerated the sin were words of power to carry out justice.

Ren chanted solemnly and pointed at the target of judgment. The gigantic box floating on the sea. Its true name was Pandora Box——.

「Make that box work once more. To change the world. Just like Aisha-san said, render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's!」

This too was Retributive Justice that surpassed Ren's limit.

It was a wish that was too overambitious. The prospect of chance was literally one in ten thousand. A difficult undertaking with success chance of lower than 0,0001%. Well, normally he wouldn't even attempt it.

However, if it was now there was the forces that were supporting Rokuhara Ren.

In respond to the magnitude of the good deed he was trying to accomplish, the grace of good fortune that was leading everything to a good direction——.

The supernatural will that wished to correct the reformed history to its proper course——.

Ren stared at Pandora Box on the sea while joining his index finger and middle finger. He thrust them out. Like pushing a reset button.

The dice had been thrown.

Everything in Ren's sight began to turn hazy.....

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.....Dream. It felt like he was seeing a dream in a daze.

.....The conflagration that burned everything standing on the surface to ash. The tsunami that washed that fire devastated area. Destruction from water and fire were covering the surface of blue earth everywhere.

.....For some reason Ren was watching that from overhead in a height of satellite orbit.

.....However, it began to rewind back.

.....The deep blue color that displayed the destruction of water, the crimson color that displayed the destruction of fire. The size of the color's surface was decreasing while he was watching.

.....Blue round table. A planet so beautiful he wanted to call it that was floating there.

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And then, the world started moving.

Rokuhara Ren was on a beach when he noticed. However, it was different from the small island that they used as base camp. It was a beach that was remarkably more extensive than that meager island.

When he looked at the other side, there was a group of high-rise buildings slightly ahead.

It was a familiar scenery. It was the scenery that he saw from the beach that was also a tourist spot in the shore of ancient city Valencia.

\*Chirp chirp\*. He could hear the chirping of small bird.

It was morning. The fresh wind was pleasant. The morning sun rising from the eastern sky was softly illuminating the land of Valencia that was located at the eastern coast of Iberian Peninsula.

A gull was crying from somewhere.

\*Kuaa. Kuaa. Kuaa. Kuaa.\*

Of course his friends were right beside him. They were looking around restlessly with dubious look.

「Did it work.....?」

「From looking briefly, it looks like the world's reformed state has been reset.....」

After Julio and Riona muttered that.

A girl suddenly leaped on him.

「Ren-sama!」

「Looks like we managed it somehow, Cassandra.」

Ren enjoyed the happiness of being able to reunite with the Troy princess while returning her embrace.

He was carried away by the momentum and kissed Cassandra's forehead. There should be no problem with the celebratory mood right now. The princess herself was smiling happily. Well, there was the problem of Riona going 「!?」 with her eyes opened wide though—.

In any case, that ominous time where the dawn was continuing with end had reached an end.

However, Aisha's stiff voice blew away the celebratory mood completely.

「Re, Ren-san, that's!」

「Of course it is. The match still isn't over yet huh.....」

**\*Bam!\*** A fully armed female knight fell from the sky.

The White Queen who was holding a long spear. It seemed she had lost her horse and was alone now. The protector of Blandelli House was lying down face up.

The queen tried to stand up somehow.

Her hands pushed on the sandy ground to lift up her upper body. However, her body was only trembling—

「It looks like this is as far as I go..... The rest depends on you all. Fight hard.」

The queen said that and vanished.

In exchange the Divine Spear of Salvation was left behind. It was stabbed into the sandy beach.

And then, finally—

The winged and snake haired goddess Athena descended from the sky. The transcendent one who brought the end like in the Revelation was smiling haughtily even now.

# **Chapter 6 – The Conclusion Between God and Beast**

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## Part 1

「As expected. As expected, you recovered everything until this much.」

Athena spoke while descending from the sky.

However, she didn't land on the ground. She kept floating in the height that allowed her to look down on Ren and others. She was looking their way with a countenance that was filled with the pride of the supreme god.

「Rokuhara Ren and Aisha—you two godslayers. As I thought, the godslaying beasts are powerful enemies without compare who are the bitter enemy of us the gods..... No matter how much we cornered you, you will surely attempt to make a reversal from the hopeless situation and realize it with no regards to your appearances. It's splendid.」

She didn't give the slightest bit of nuance of being a poor loser.

It seemed that Athena was speaking her praise from her heart. Furthermore the snake haired goddess floating in the sky suddenly started shining from her back.

Wings of light that were shining in rainbow color were growing from Athena's back.

The number was more than twenty. They spread in a circle looking similar like a peacock spreading its feathers—it was very sublime.

However at the same time, it also contained an indescribable ominous air.

With round shaped wings that glittered in seven color on her back like a halo, the goddess was looking down on the ground!

Ren asked. He asked while feeling vague fears from the enemy's composure.

「The way you speak sounds like you knew that we will be able to do this much?」

「Naturally. The aura that filled the battlefield told me that. —The will of heaven is with the enemy side. Pay heed. ....After seeing that omen, it is the duty of the general to withstand it quietly.」

「Uuu. Athena-san, she is really composed.....」

Aisha muttered. The goddess calmly spoke.

「Of course it is. Try considering it. Light and darkness, good and evil, gods and devils, and above all else god and godslayer has continued to be in conflict for a long time that surpassed eternity. Even now that war has gone through thousands, tens of thousands of year, it still hasn't reached a conclusion—in that case, there is no use to fret each time the situation tilt toward the enemy.」

Athena gallantly talked big.

「The only thing to do is to earnestly fight till the end when the outcome is decided.」

「In other words, you're going to reverse the situation again from here and bring the end of the world once more?」

「Indeed.」

An instant answer to Ren's question.

Athena suddenly formed a tiny smile.

It was a smile that was filled with farsightedness and ambition that couldn't possibly be reached for someone who wasn't a transcendental god. Julio who witnessed that sighed.

「Armageddon is certainly something like that but, it's painful to be told such proclamation right to my face.....」

「She is a god after all. We can't expect frail mentality from her huh.....」

Riona also commented with anxiousness.

Right after that, Cassandra gasped and her complexion changed. She yelled rapidly.

「N, no! Riona-sama, please protect Ren-sama!」

Her tone was terribly urgent. She might have gotten some kind of premonition.

And then, Athena was already moving. Just from briefly waving her hand, black water drop—rained down like a storm from the sky!

\*Zazazazazazazazazazazaza-!\*

The heavy black rain gouged the ground with countless small holes.

Even the hard rock at the beach became covered with holes. The black raindrops didn't show any sign of stopping at all. It was continuing to attack Valencia and most importantly the humans!

However fortunately the raindrops were erased before they hit Ren and others.

The body of godslayer defended against the might of the black rain.

「Hi, hieeeeeeeh!?!」

「Everyone, come to our side!」

Aisha screamed and held her head. Ren covered Cassandra behind him and called out to his comrades.

The two's behavior was completely different, but they had common constitution.

Their body deflected and negated power that was in the category of curse or magic. Such resistance was—.

If they concentrated, then even the magic power raging around them would be erased. Right now the black rain wasn't falling only near the two godslayers.

Julio, Cassandra, and Riona were putting themselves close to that safe area.

But, the rain's might was pouring on practically the whole beach other than near them. Everything standing on the ground was changing into hole riddled object.

Athena alone was floating calmly in the sky with wings of light like a halo on her back.

And then Rokuhara Ren—tilted his head.

「Eh.....?」

He was bewildered, and then he whispered the usual phrase.

「Nemesis-san, come on. May the judgment of justice come here—」

Usually he could summon the goddess's phantom with that.

The winged Nemesis would descend behind Rokuhara Ren and unleashed a counter. But this time he didn't even feel that the stock of Retributive Justice was filled up.

Even though he was under an attack this fierce—!?

「May the judgment of justice come here! Woah, it's no good as expected. What does this mean!?!」

「You can't use Nemesis's authority? What's wrong Ren!?!」

「Aa, Ren-sama.....」

Ren made one more attempt and he finally keenly felt the loss of his ability. Julio was also surprised. Cassandra looked down in sorrow, Riona was——

「She did something to Rokuhara-san didn't she!?!」

She bravely raised her face and glared at Athena in the sky.

She pointed out with the index finger of her right hand. Dazzling light surged out from that fingertip.

「The sky darkened suddenly——. Come golden divine bird, perch on the emperor's bow.....!」

Secret ritual Golden Bird's Great Purification.

The spell of lightning that fired converged sunlight like laser.

If it was the Riona from before she wouldn't be able to use it without first transforming into Yatagarasu and manifested the twelve divine generals. However now that she had achieved a rapid growth, Riona became able to unleash the spell quickly in her human body.

The moment that light spell was fired——

Athena held out her right hand in front of her. The shield of Gorgon appeared to protect the floating goddess and blocked the lightning heat beam.

But, the black rain finally stopped at the same time with that.

「You have grown stronger than before, witch of the fire bird.」

「More importantly than that is Rokuhara-san! Sealing his signature move like this, you're using a revolting tactic aren't you, even though you're a goddess!」

「No. Don't misunderstand.」

Athena smiled arrogantly and glanced down on a certain person.

Ren also glanced that way. Aisha's face was twitching awkwardly.

「Don't tell me it's Aisha-san's doing!?!」

「Calling it my doing is a biitt.....it's the fault of the protection of good fortune that was granted to Ren-san you know~」

The godslaying lady displayed a smile that was playing dumb.

「You know, fortune and misfortune come by turns. Until just now Ren-san was the luckies human on earth since the earth's creation. Now incredible bad luck is coming down on you due to the recoil from that I think. But, perhaps it's lucky instead that it stop with just a single ability getting sealed!」

It was a “searching for silver lining” that was too forced.

Riona retorted darkly.

「There isn't any guarantee that it will stop with just this one, and even that one is our main fighting strength so this is the worst development. So this is what Princess Cassandra's premonition is about.....」

「Yes..... That's why perhaps Riona-sama is our last ray of hope.....」

「Le, let's us give back up with guts and spirit for that, everyone-!」

「I really wish to do just that but, what about the reality, Ren?」

「About that—it will be a bit tough I think.....」

Ren grumbled while listening to Aisha's useless consolation and his best friend Julio's anxiety.

Of course, even like this he had no choice but to fight with everything he got, but this was too abrupt. Although, this was the price for being able to reset the end of the world, so he could only accept it—

「Eh?」

Ren doubted his eyes.

Everything around him was suddenly turning into stone. Julio, Riona, Cassandra. And it wasn't just his companions.

Even the soft sandy beach underfeet—was hardening into rock.

The trees standing on the beach, their bark and green leaves were also changing into grey rock.

No, it didn't stop there.

Even the wave surging toward this beach hardened, transforming into an undulating rock surface. When he looked at far away, even the high-rise buildings made from reinforced concrete turned into stone rectangle tower—.

Ren flinched.

「Everyone become stone.....?」

「It's not something so surprising. My eyes are the eyes of Gorgon. A simple act of burying everything within the reach of Athena's sight into stone coffin is a mere child play. Rather the problem is the two of you. As expected ordinary trick won't work on the flesh of godslayers.....」

Athena looked down on Ren and Aisha from the sky.

The eyes of the supreme goddess were shining gold when they noticed. Those eyes were the same with the eyes of the Gorgon that was carved on the surface of the mystical shield protecting her.

How far the divine gazes of the goddesses reached?

Perhaps the only one who managed to not get petrified somehow was only Rokuhara Ren and his fellow godslayer Aisha within the radius of 50 kilometer—no.

「Re, Ren-san!? It looks like we're also in danger!」

「Why!?!」

Ren was astonished together with Aisha.

They possessed formidable resistance that repelled every kind of curse. Such thing wouldn't stick easily on them as long as it wasn't breathed in directly into their body.

Even though that should be the case, the two's lower body were hardening into stone.

The area around their stomach was also getting harder in a good pace.

The petrified body part was gradually spreading up!

In the air Athena was looking down at the surprise of the two godslayers while chanting something.

「.....Know the anger of the goddess of the shining eyes, the glorious Athena. With the furious might of the shining eyes, Plympus should rumble. The sky shall be in fear and the land shall quake. O ocean, clamor, seethe with surging billows——」

「Wha, what kind of poem is that? Is that some kind of spell!?!」

Athena smiled at Ren's question.

「This? I have prepared it from before since noticing that the blessing of destiny is at your side. I placed words of power on the wind and dissolved them into the atmosphere while crossing blades with that white knight. The prayer for the sake of scattering temporary death around——」

Atmosphere. In other words she was scattering spell into the air.

Ren noticed the meaning of that and felt fear.



「Don't tell me, because we were breathing in that air.....the magic of petrification is working from inside our body——」

「You guess well. That's how it is.」

She got them. If it was a normal situation, someone might realized about her trick.

But, the excitement from resetting the end of the world made not one of them able to detect Athena's trap.

Was this the victory of the goddess who saw ahead until that far——?

「I shall drop the two of you into the realm of Hades once more on top of turning you into stone. Of course this time I will personally send you two there so that you won't be able to revive this time. I will smash the corpse of two godslayers at the bottom of earth into pieces and fix my victory into a firm one. Pay heed, archenemies of the gods.」

「Yo, you don't need to be so attentive like thaaa——!?!? .....Ah」

「Aisha-san!」

Finally even the lovely face of Aisha started to turn to stone.

Ren himself was also feeling how his face was turning stiff. Both of them would completely petrify from their toes until their head before long.

It was the moment the two godslayers submitted to Gorgon's evil gaze.

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## Part 2

They wouldn't really die even if they were killed—

That was the racial trait of the good-for-nothing bunch called godslayer.

Their vitality was so vigorous it could only be called as vulgarly lively. But, even so the supreme goddess Athena performed a meticulous trap and managed to bind her two archenemies.

They couldn't resist anymore after getting trapped this far.

Rokuhara Ren turned into a lifeless stone status along with his colleague Aisha.

However—although his senior who occasionally showed a portion of her monstrous aspect despite her terribly loveliness didn't have any hand remaining, the junior Ren had a single ace up his sleeve.

(Ren-sama. Ren-sama.)

(Don't fall sleep-. Now that you have come this far this is a battle of spirit!)

(Rokuhara-san, hang on!)

He got the feeling that his female companions were calling out to him.

And then while he was a stone statue that couldn't move even a single finger, Ren understood that it wasn't just his feeling. Because he felt their thought clearly.

(Ren! Now that it has come to this, I'll resolve myself too!)

There was no doubt. It was Stella.

(This is a terribly dangerous battle, so I have done my best to not stand out until now but..... There is no way the goddess of beauty and love Aphrodite will yield against a stupid goddess like Athena!)

His “partner” was passionately talking inside him.

His bond with her was still going strong. That meant that not all his authorities had been sealed.

In addition the thought of his other partner was also reaching him.

(Listen well. Snake type mother earth goddess who is represented by Gorgon is a divinity that governs over life and death. The binding of petrification is her authority as death god, a power that granted “temporary death”. That’s why—you should be able to still go on if you resist death using the symbol of immortality!)

This girl was also connected to him through the authority that he usurped from Goddess Nike.

Indeed. The power that Rokuhara Ren possessed was three. Goddess Nemesis’s Retributive Justice, and then Nike and Aphrodite’s authorities—.

Fortunately, his remaining two authorities were safe. In that case!

(Stella, use the Circle of Friendship!)

「Leave it to me! .....Bird girl, now is the time you offer tribute to the goddess of love. The power to protect Ren in the place of you who became useless now!」

The minimum goddess-sama showed up on the left shoulder of the petrified Ren.

Thin waist that looked easy to break like a doll. The white belt wrapped around it was shining in rose color. The person who Stella summoned—it was Riona who was petrified right nearby.

The silent stone statue gave no reply.

But, strong thought was emitted from the whole body of the petrified Riona. Even though she couldn't move her body, her consciousness was still awake!

(It's not a tribute but simply a loan! .....The power of divine spirit of fire and sun Yatagarasu, I'll entrust it for a while, Rokuhara-san!)

「Thank you!」

The body of Rokuhara Ren who became stone started shining gold.

Ren instantly took back his freedom. All his limbs returned into living flesh. The binding of stone was splendidly shaken off.

Without pause Ren—flew to the sky.

「Hou! You still have strength remaining!」

Ren left behind Athena who praised him and climbed steeply high to the sky.

A perfect flight. The golden light enveloping Ren was Yatagarasu's spiritual power itself. In that case it was only natural he could fly.

His altitude rapidly increased with a speed that was nearly the speed of sound.

(The sky is my turf! This much is a piece of cake!)

A spiritual body sticking close to Ren spoke proudly.

It was Toba Riona wearing her blazer. However her whole body was transparent. She became only ghost body and slipped out from her petrified body.

(Even though the sun dies together with the sunset, it will resurrect at each sunrise. It's the symbol of immortality—)

Riona boasted in her ghostly body.

(If the power of that spirit Yatagarasu and godslayer Rokuhara Ren become one, even the petrification of Gorgon is nothing to fear!)

「Yeah. For now let's take distance from the enemy and think of a strategy.」

Ren spoke to Riona who accompanied him in order to become his adviser. He dropped the speed of his upward flight and finally stopped midair.

The land of Valencia province should be far below.

The green mountains and forest and fields, the settlement scattered here and there, and above all else the ancient city of Valencia.

But, there was only cold grey color spreading below him. The whole area here was fully petrified. The evil eyes of Athena=Gorgon possessed absurd might.

「Could it be, the whole city became stone.....」

(No. It doesn't stop there, even the outside of this city get dragged in without a doubt. It's obvious from a glance.)

The moment Riona's ghost body said that, Ren's eyesight improved.

He was able to see even until the end of the faraway horizon in detail.

This was the eye of sacred bird Yatagarasu. The harmed area from the petrification phenomenon wasn't limited to a single city of Valencia at all.

(Athena's gaze, perhaps it even reached until the neighboring province. The size of the damage is absurd.....)

Even without Pandora Box, Athena's godly might was very powerful.

While he was feeling fear, a warning suddenly came from his left shoulder.

「No, no good Ren-. Looks like there isn't any time to take it slow!」

Stella sitting on Ren's left shoulder was looking scared with a stiff face.

She silently pointed at a direction. There—Athena suddenly appeared. The rainbow colored wings that looked like peacock was on her back like a halo.

The supreme goddess calmly floated in the air while muttering.

「You splendidly escaped even now that you have lost Nemesis's escaping feet—. As expected, Rokuhara Ren. But, Athena won't lose sight of you with just this.....」

「Uwah!」

Ren immediately ran away from Athena.

He abruptly took off with Yatagarasu's flight and left to the sky far away.

The snake haired goddess lifted up her left hand. From that hand—several hundred snakes surged out all at once.

To be more accurate, ominous jet black vapor took the shape of snakes.

It was truly a torrent of black snake. Just before their fangs reached, Ren slipped away and escaped with golden light enveloping him.

(Nice judgment! If you are swallowed by that it will be the end of the line for you-)

「Even though we have immortality for two people's share overlapping in us!?!」

(You're stupid Ren, earth mother goddess who nurture life is also a death god who reap life! That fellow is seriously coming to finish you off alone. That thing should possess extraordinary effect even among the numerous curses of death!)

Riona's ghost body and Stella on his shoulder were commenting together.





He flew while listening to them. However, Ren immediately put on the brake. He sensed a threat that made the hair on the back of his neck stood on end.

From abrupt braking to sudden stop. He floated still in the sky and stared fixedly to the front.

—An unpleasant presence was hanging over the area.

「Don't be that hurried, godslayer. Come face the death that I granted.」

「As I thought!」

Athena showed up once more with instant teleportation.

With rainbow colored halo on her back, she fired a torrent of black snake from her left hand. This time Ren escaped by immediately stopped flying.

He immediately began to freefall. He nose-dived without putting much effort.

The black death also passed through above Ren. But.

「Fufufufu. You're facing Athena who was served by the winged goddess Nike you know? It's vexing to be thought that I will fall behind in flying technique—」

Athena was right before the eyes of the falling Ren.

The goddess also nose-dived to the ground with exactly the same speed. However she did it while thoroughly focusing on Rokuhara Ren with a composed smile and the eyes of a predator chasing a prey.

Stella yelled from Ren's left shoulder.



「Tha, that's right Ren! The sky is also the territory of this stupid woman, so there's no way you can escape from her here!」

「Fu——. That's a keen insight coming from princess Aphrodite.」

「Uuuu. That condescending gaze, it's extremely irritating but, you mustn't compete with her from the front! Anyway you must shake Athena off!」

(Sacred bird, shine radiantly, like the lightning!)

Riona freefall together with Ren while chanting a spell.

The flash of Golden Bird's Great Purification immediately surged from Ren's whole body and attacked Athena.

「Mu——Gorgon's shield, protect me.」

(Now, Rokuhara-san!)

「Yosh let's go!」

Riona and Ren escaped again while Athena summoned her shield.

They began accelerating toward Valencia city on the ground. They flew away from the goddess' presence in a straight line toward diagonally downward.

The town area of the petrified Valencia, in the sky right above it——.

The buildings of Valencia City were originally abundant with variation like brick, reinforced concrete, wood, and so on. But they were all turning into bland grey stone right now.

Even the asphalt road or the bare soil had turned into stone.

Sometimes he also caught sight of human, but of course they were stone statue. Even though they finally managed to get through the end of the world, they were dragged into another disaster right away.

Ren thought while looking down at the terrible spectacle. Counter. Counter.

As expected there would be no meaning even if he ran around without dealing back a single counter.

First was running away with the nimble feet he was proud of, and then landing an attack that aimed at the nose of the enemy pursuing him. There would be meaning in using his legs for the first time if he could do that.

That was why—Ren landed on the ground.

It was an open lawn. However, this was the center of Valencia City.

Its name was Estadio de Mestalla. It would be easier for Japanese to understand if it was written as Stadium Mestalla.

It was a soccer field. However, it wasn't a stadium that one could find anywhere.

It was the base of Valencia CF, a veteran club of Liga Espanyol. Although it wasn't as famous as Camp Nou or Santiago Bernabeu, this place was like a holy land for Valencia kids who were crazy for soccer.

Even the green lawn was petrified.

Thanks to the grass being pruned shortly, the ground was slightly undulating, but the sensation wasn't that different from a flat floor and he could step on it.

Ren didn't try to fly anymore and stood still while golden light was still enveloping him.

Stella on his left shoulder was bewildered.

「Wha, what are you doing Ren!？」

「As I thought we need trump card. Let's use the Circle of Friendship once more. The one to call is that, the sword of salvation thingy.」

(The Divine Sword of Salvation or rather now it's the Divine Spear of Salvation isn't it? But)

Riona's ghost body asked.

(That authority couldn't be used consecutively right? It just got used when borrowing my power before this so——)

「It's fine. We will manage somehow, right Stella?」

「That's well, both me and Ren has grown stronger from before..... It's the grace from accomplishing the return from the realm of the death in Hyperborea's sanctuary.」

(As expected, that's the cause of the level up.)

Riona nodded in a big way.

(Umayado no Ouji also suddenly grew stronger, so I was suspecting that was the case.)

At the mythological world Hyperborea, god and hero would occasionally depart to the bottom of the realm of the death.

When accomplishing a difficult quest, it was said that they would awaken a “new power”. Sun god Apollo also achieved a power up by doing that.

Actually since that trip——

Ren was secretly aware that his ability was improving.

「But Ren! There is no way a godslayer will be given the qualification to use the sword of salvation!」

「Even so nothing ventured, nothing gained. Without a weapon of at least that level, I think we won't be able to oppose Athena. ....Besides there was also that advice.」

He spoke the last part quietly to himself.

Destiny would become their ally this time only—. Well, he had no intention to rely on something unreliable like destiny but, at this point he should use anything that could be used.

「Geez, I don't care what will happen! .....Come, o blade of salvation! Please quickly come to us and render assistance!」

Stella chanted in a huff.

The small goddess's sash shined in rose color—in the end it came.

A long spear came down from the sky like lightning and the tip stabbed into the ground \*zun!\*. But, the enemy also arrived almost at the same time.

「Oo, what a strange fate. A godslayer is relying on a weapon that should be his irreconcilable enemy.」

She crossed space once more using instant teleportation—

The snake haired great goddess Athena let out a sigh.

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## Part 3

And then Ren reached out.

He grabbed the hilt of the Divine Spear of Salvation and pulled out from the ground—

「It's no good as expected!」

「That's why I told you already, idiot!」

The long spear didn't even budge.

No matter how much strength Ren exerted, the spear stabbed into the ground wouldn't lift up for even a millimeter. Stella's abuse could be said as a very natural reaction.

Riona who was watching that from start to end sighed,

(Well, it can't go that conveniently..... In the first place Rokuhara-san, you're a sham prince and not a hero character.....)

「This is bad. I got the hunch that this can work though!」

Ren grumbled at his wrong hunch.

Actually an image was forming while he was in the middle of running around at the sky.

That spear was pulled out from the ground and the blade shined radiantly under the sunlight—. Such scene flashed at the back of his mind for an instant.

「Fufufu. Are you satisfied? Now it's time to depart to the underworld.」

A torrent of black snakes was fired from Athena's left hand again.

It attacked Rokuhara Ren from the front to swallow him like tsunami. Both his reflexes and defensive instinct pleaded to him, fly away they said.

However, he held his ground instead.

He heightened the magic power in his whole body. The golden light enveloping his body became even more radiant.

Would he be able to endure with this—. Ren immediately screamed.

「UWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!?!」

「Even eradicating the people of a country whole is possible.....this 《death》 is capable of that much. Even for a godslayer, this isn't something that can be endured for long.」

The torrent of curse flowing out from Athena's left hand didn't weaken at all.

The black vapor took the form of snake and rushed in a big swarm of several thousands, no several tens of thousands. Furthermore because they came with the momentum like an avalanche of earth and rocks, they flooded into even the inside of his mouth mercilessly—.

「Kuh.....」

Ren couldn't hold on and flew to escape to the sky.

He somehow slipped out from the torrent of black death. However, a chill that made him tremble was filling him up. Although he was barely able to fly, he was staggering.

「What's, this.....? Something really cold.....」

「It's the curse of death! If you don't cut off the body part where the curse is circulating, you will be ravaged by deadly poison and can only die, Ren!」

「Even if you say that, my whole body was bathed by that stuff.....」

「Why didn't you dodge it properly huh!?!」

(For now keep your spirit and focus! Keep a hold of your consciousness strongly and destroy Athena's curse in the usual way!)

「Nn.....I'm doing it but, it doesn't feel like it's working.....」

Ren and others rushed to the sky once more.

Stella on his left shoulder and Riona who came along as ghost. They argued with each other while flying.

However, his speed was visibly dropping.

The curse of death immediately gnawed on Rokuhara Ren's body. Just flying was incomparably harder than before.

Furthermore, Athena circled ahead on Ren's path.

The wings that looked like rainbow halo flapped. She hovered in a single spot in the sky and stared in satisfaction at Ren's group that was heading toward her. The sense of superiority of a hunter who had cornered their prey put on a smile on the goddess's face.

Ren shuddered.

At this rate he would hasten toward Athena by his own volition!

He had to change his direction somehow. But because of the curse, his whole body was listless. Even just thinking was tiresome. To say nothing of running away or fighting—

「Ren!」

(Rokuhara-san!)

Even listening to the two women, Ren couldn't stop his straightforward flight.

Athena finally lifted up her left hand. She intended to finally deal the finishing blow. Rokuhara Ren's life was exactly like a candle before the wind right now.....

However, Ren grinned. Because he won his gamble.

It was Athena who was dumbfounded instead.

「Mu—oooh!?!」

Her left arm was severed by the long spear that flew from the surface.

Athena's left arm was heading right at Ren. The shining spear tip was digging into that elbow, cutting apart the flesh and bone.

The white and slender arm of the goddess was falling to the ground.

The long spear that accomplished this great achievement was also flying back to the surface where its wielder was.

The spear's name was of course the Divine Spear of Salvation. The person who threw it from the lawn of the petrified soccer stadium Estadio de Mestalla was—

Troy princess Cassandra.

The prophet of tragedy casually caught the returning spear.

Gallant fighting spirit was filling Cassandra's beautiful face vividly.

.

Princess Cassandra was a member of a hero family who descended from the blood of god.



She devoted herself to her study as a priestess of Apollo and she was bestowed with the spiritual power of foresight. She also received education from Troy's greatest hero, her big brother Hector and obtained understanding of martial arts.

She was a remarkable character who was far beyond the ordinary masses.

But, even then she wasn't on par with the mythological heroes.

This time too she was helplessly reduced into stone—or that was how it should be. However this was her second time being hit by Gorgon's evil eyes.

「.....far away, now is the time——」

Cassandra immediately chanted “a certain scripture”.

Perhaps it was the blessing of that. Unlike before, she didn't lose her consciousness this time.

(It feels like I can stay awake this time!)

The Divine Spear of Salvation was standing beside the petrified Cassandra. And then—suddenly she obtained premonition. This spear would be pulled out once more and shined radiantly under the sunlight.....!

(Ren-sama!)

Cassandra prayed wholeheartedly, then she sensed with her priestess's spiritual power.

Goddess Aphrodite's divine power was calling the divine spear. The next moment, Cassandra who was still petrified was also brought along.

When she realized next, she was standing at a corner of a place that looked like an arena.

Her beloved Rokuhara Ren was also at the center of the wide space. The Divine Spear of Salvation was stabbed right in front of him.

The spear and Cassandra's loved one were confronting Athena in the sky.

What could she do in order to help him? Like this it would be the same like in the realm of the dead of Hyperborea where she was only able to watch the duel between God Apollo and her lover. In that case.

(Yes. Just like Fumika-sama at that time——)

The miko of Tamayori said it.

If one put their heart into this incantation, something amazing would happen——.

(Visitor from the land of the dead far away, now is the time to come!)

The moment she prayed, stone pieces were falling from Cassandra's body.

The petrification binding her was easily dispelled. Right now she was being protected by a hero who was nobler than anyone.

Cassandra felt that while approaching.

Toward the trump card that was still stabbed into the stone ground, the Divine Spear of Salvation——.

「Hector-oniisama, please lend Cassandra your strength!」

She spoke the name of the hero who shouldn't be inferior by all means even compared to the queen of Amazon.

The princess of Troy magnificently pulled out the divine spear.

The platinum spear tip was bathed in morning sunlight and it finally shined brilliantly. Cassandra held this long spear aloft and threw it with all her strength.

In order to save Rokuhara Ren who was cornered at the wide open sky.

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The long spear splendidly severed Athena's left arm.

Cassandra threw that spear from the ground. She easily grabbed the returning weapon of salvation and pointed the tip to the sky this time.

She mustered her lovely voice and yelled.

「O blade of salvation, please display the lightning of judgment right here!」

「Oo!? So you obtained Hector's protection, princess of Troy!」

The electricity unleashed from the divine spear on the ground swallowed Athena.

The goddess who had thoroughly tormented Rokuhara Ren with jet black torrent was fiercely struck by torrent of lightning this time. She was falling.

Ren felt admiration after watching from start to end.

「Amazing power. So this is the backing of destiny. Besides Cassandra is also amazing! She called her big brother's soul once more!」

The sight of sacred bird Yatagarasu that he borrowed from Riona.

Thanks to that he was able to see the figure of the Troy princess on the ground in detail even from the sky.





Right now a ghost was standing close behind Cassandra.

A beautiful young man wearing bronze armor and helmet. He had a large and muscular body. But his body was transparent, showing that he was a soul—.

He was the hero Hector who boasted outstanding valor even in Trojan War.

「Thinking back, the princess has also accomplished a return from the realm of the dead in Hyperborea..... That's why her power is increasing even more than before!」

Stella said from Ren's shoulder.

「She even learned the technique that bird girl's little sister used!」

「It was just one way but, she even sent me telepathy.」

Ren also nodded.

She also did that when he almost died at the end of the world. Cassandra sent him a future premonition image just a little while ago. That was why Ren made his gamble.

He used himself as bait and drew Athena's attention——.

So that someone who would pull out the divine spear would have easier time to reverse the situation. It was a gamble that couldn't possibly be made without absolute confidence in Cassandra's premonition.

「Perhaps this too is the power of love.....」

(Rokuhara-san! Don't say stupid things, we should also go to decide this fight!)

Riona's soul yelled.

Cassandra was continuing to fire lightning strikes from the spear of salvation at the ground. Although Athena defended well against it using Gorgon's shield, she couldn't counterattack.

Lightning became surging waves that assaulted her.

The power was too great that Athena couldn't put down her shield's defense.

However, there was no way Cassandra's fierce attack would continue forever. After all she wasn't the hero who ought to wield the weapon of salvation.....

Riona's soul spoke with a desperate look.

(If we don't finish it here, the chance of victory won't come for the second time!)

「You're right. My body is already at the limit too——」

His body was completely beaten up by the curse of death. Ren muttered.

Stella and Riona's soul vanished. In order to not disturb the godslayer who would challenge the greatest battle of his lifetime. Ren chanted in order to fully exert the power he borrowed from Yatagarasu.

「Secret words of fire and sun, exorcist and purify every kind of impure sins!」

\*GOU!\* Bluish white flame enveloped Ren's body.

The blazing flame had a shape. It spread out its wings. It was the silhouette of the three-legged Yatagarasu——transforming into a bird of fire, Ren rushed to the ground.

He fell above Athena who was blocking the lightning strikes with the shield of Gorgon.

The conflagration of blue flame flared up and swallowed the home stadium of Valencia CF immediately.

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「Ren-sama is inside that flame.....」

Cassandra was looking down on the intense flame from nearby.

She was standing above the roof of Estadio de Mestalla that only looked like an arena to her.

This stadium that could contain 50000 people had the shape like a mortar. The stadium was open wide.

But, only the west side of the stand had roof attached. Cassandra was looking down at the flame from there.

Most of the ground and audience seats were enveloped by bluish white flame.

Flame was flaring up with roaring sound and exploding frequently. Between that flame and the roof where Cassandra was standing, there was only ten odd meter at best.

Heat wave and updraft wind were rising mercilessly until this place.

.....Seeing the bird of flame descended toward the ground, the Troy princess immediately gripped the Divine Spear of Salvation strongly.

The divine spear instantly flew to the sky and retreated until here.

Cassandra who was holding the shaft also flew together with it.

The spirit of her big brother Hector was behind her even now. Thanks to that she naturally understood the way to use the divine spear. It was an outrageous sacred treasure.

But even the Divine Spear of Salvation couldn't do anything more than this.

What was going on with Rokuhara Ren and Athena inside that roaring flame——? Cassandra could only pray for the safety of her lover.

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And then, within the vortex of flame.

The duel between god and beast was finally entering the climax.

They were beyond help as could be seen from how they ignored the whirling flame.

「Rokuhara Ren, you are truly a formidable opponent..... But, soon will be a good time for you to fall into eternal sleep. Has you resolved yourself?」

「Man.....that's what I want to say to you though.....」

Athena who lost her left arm changed her right arm from her elbow to her hand into a blade.

The gently curving blade gave the impression of katana, curved sword, or the blade of a scythe. The tip was piercing Ren's side.

In contrast Ren was strongly embracing Athena who was slashing at him.

Of course it wasn't an embrace that came from love, it was in order to fire the last attack that he carried.

The curse of death was affecting him, so he couldn't jump or run around anymore. That was why he picked this choice.

「Hey——can you listen, to a request from me.....?」

Ren whispered while still embracing Athena.

It could be seen as a whisper into the goddess's ear, but in actuality this was spell words. In order for the godslayer who had used up all the trump card in his hands to continue fighting even now——.

He continued whispering with a small voice while desperately holding on his fading consciousness.

「I want to settle this without any good luck or bad luck in play. I don't mind even if you sever relation with me with this as the last so, I'm asking you..... I want to hit Athena with the iron hammer of justice, the divine punishment of Retributive Justice this time for sure. Right, Nemesis-san——」



「Fool! Even though Nemesis's authority is still sealed even now!」

Athena mocked scornfully. However, Ren grinned frivolously.

「That's true. But, I'm someone who is doted on a lot by older lady so.....  
Nemesis-san too doesn't look like she is that dissatisfied with me——」

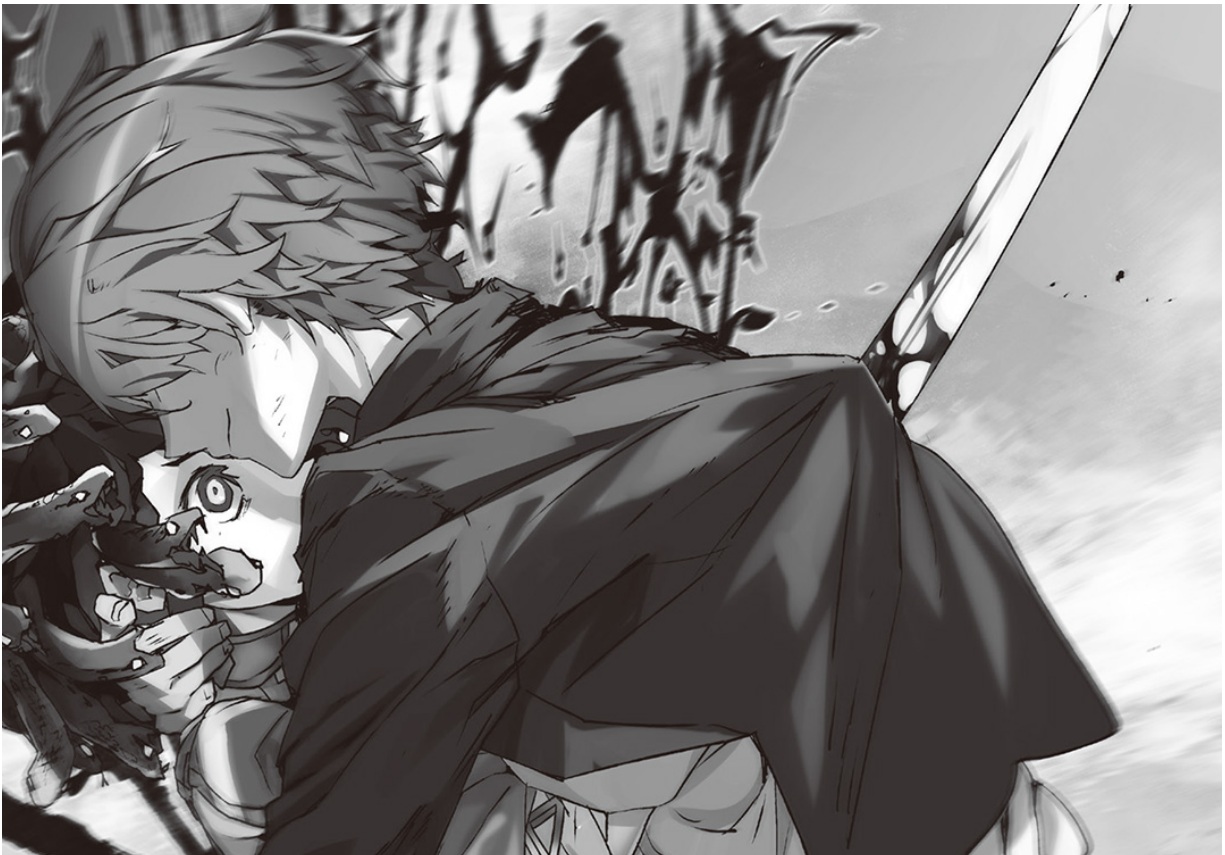
「What!?!」

Just a moment before he collapsed——no.

It was mysterious even for himself how he could still be conscious with how wounded he was.

Even so Rokuhara Ren was muttering in order to keep his disposition of  
『frivolous and easygoing anytime anyplace』 till the very end.

Just like he keenly realized at his battle with Apollo, in the end that was his only path to victory.





He would continue being himself to the ends of the earth. He wouldn't be able to do something like fighting god at all without being able to persist in his own style.

—And then.

Ren spoke these words.

「May the judgment of justice, come right here.....」

「Ku.....uguh—」

He hugged Athena's body tightly while being stabbed by her.

His right hand behind her back, its index finger and middle finger were—turning into blade and deeply gouged into Athena's soft skin. Just like how Ren's side was being gauged right now.

Black curse became a torrent and flowed out from the fingertips that pierced the goddess.

The power of death that Ren had been thoroughly infected with—.

He directly sent it into Athena's body.

Everything was a counter from authority Retributive Justice, a retribution for the committed wrongdoing.

Was it Goddess Nemesis's whim or love that made this a success?

Or perhaps the bad luck that Miss Aisha brought had inversed into good luck right at this time? Or perhaps it was simply because of Ren's own hidden reserves of strength? The reason wasn't clear.

But, in any case Athena and Ren fell over together with a thud.

Double KO.

However, Ren was convinced.

That a helping hand would surely be held out toward him—.

# Epilogue – To the Hero World Once More

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The duel against Athena that felt long but short.

Rokuhara Ren was completely exhausted both physically and mentally after going through that several days that were stormy and full of drama. He was also wounded heavily. He was still hospitalized even after three days passed.

He was lying down on hospital bed while staring outside the window in a daze.

This was second floor, so he could only see the blue sky and the trees growing within the hospital's ground. There was no exciting scenery.

However, he could hear the voice of the children playing outside.

There was also the sound of people and wagon coming and going in a hurry at the hospital corridor. Rokuhara Ren and his comrades had somehow took back the world's stability.

Fuu—. Ren sighed.

If he thought of his body that was covered with wounds as the price for that then it couldn't be helped.

But, he was terribly tired. Perhaps it would be fine even if he relaxed soon. Ren pointed outside the window and spoke solemnly.

「Around the time that leaf fall from the tree, perhaps I——」

「Ren-sama.....」

Cassandra quietly grabbed Ren's hand.

She visited everyday and served as his talking partner. Even now she was sitting beside his bed. Ren turned back toward the girl he loved.

The two of them stared at each other and right when it became a “nice atmosphere”——

The other visitor retorted to get in the way.

「What's with the strange atmosphere!? That is a palm tree, so its leaves won't fall even at winter!」

「Now that you say it, that's true.」

Ren smiled frivolously at Riona's remark.

Palm tree was planted everywhere in Valencia city with its mild temperature. Even its local specialty the orange became roadside trees. It was a really tropical city.

Ren stretched on the bed 「Uuun」 and said.

「You see, it's rare for me to be in hospital and getting attended like this. So I thought of trying out a play that I usually can't do.」

「Ren-sama. I will come visiting again tomorrow bringing sweets!」

Cassandra was smiling cheerfully.

She had a modern attire that was the combination of white blouse and brown tight skirt. By the way Riona was wearing a blue sweater and black leggings.

Ren gave a thumb up to the two beautiful girls.

「Nice. I might want to eat cake soon.」

「You're already fully recovered, so just get out of the hospital quickly! Rokuhara-san, you're getting carried away because this is private room and immediately turn into mischief!」

Ren winked at Riona who was the only one in a bad mood here.

「About that you see, Cassandra and Riona are expressly coming here after all.」

「Tha, that's also a problem. I, in the end I only came for visiting a patient, I have no intention to go along with Rokuhara-san's playboy way at all——」

Riona averted her gaze in embarrassment. On the other hand Cassandra looked dissatisfied.

「I should come here alone in that case. Even though I have told Riona-sama that many times.....」

「If Princess Cassandra is alone here, this hospital will become a hotbed of illicit sexual relationship!」

「I think it'll be fine because it's not illicit though.」

Ren was carefreely laughing within the noisiness that was unsuitable for a patient room.

Three days ago, after he and Athena got into double KO. The petrification phenomena that attacked eastern part of Spain was solved naturally.

From the investigation later on, the affected area was very extensive.

Not just Valencia city, actually the petrified area was spreading until forty percent of Valencia province and even the neighboring Castile-La Mancha province.

In that duel, the soccer stadium went up in big flame.

Valencia CF's holy land Mestalla was burning down in crackling flame while the citizens who were released from the petrification were watching over it.

It was Riona and Julio who rescued Ren from that large fire.

Thanks to borrowing the spiritual power of Yatagarasu, he didn't get burn injury. But he was in the verge of dying due to his duel with Athena. Thus he was healed with magic and brought to a hospital that was secretly cooperating with Campiones association and hospitalized there—

Three days later. Ren had recovered completely.

.

「The city has completely returned back to normal.」

After getting forced by Riona to leave the hospital.

Ren was gazing at the city restlessly from the backseat of the car.

As to be expected from the third largest city of Spain, there were a lot of pedestrians and cars. Also tourists. Everyone was wearing thick jacket or coat. The atmosphere was peaceful.

—The season was already midwinter.

But the coldness of Valencia that was facing Mediterranean Sea wasn't that harsh. Just like he saw just now, there was also a lot of palm tree and it didn't really feel like winter.

Riona was also sitting at the backseat with Ren.

「Most of the population of the world doesn't remember the end of this world. They remember about the abnormal weather, but they completely don't remember about the tsunami and fire after that.」

After saying that, Riona added.

「.....Well, but. A part of the high ranked magicians vaguely remember about the arrival of the end. Even ordinary people, those with excellent spiritual sense among them saw the situation of that time in dream——」

「In dream!」

「Perhaps a rush of publication of prophecy about the end will begin all over the world.....」

Riona predicted beside the surprised Ren.

However, that only happened because the world was peaceful.

As expected it was outside the jurisdiction of godslayer when it came to a completely peaceful world. But, they were able to stop the end of the world that was brought by a god's whim.

「So there won't be any problem for now even if I relax.」

Ren muttered.

「Well, I wasn't a working person even before that though. That's right. Let's go somewhere with everyone to play and forget about god or whatever. Let's invite Aisha-san too.」

「That's a great idea! Of course Julio-sama will also come right?」

The eyes of Cassandra who was sitting at the passenger seat was sparkling.

However the best friend who picked up Ren with car, Julio Blandelli was wordlessly driving the car. Although he was driving safely, it also looked like he was in the middle of thinking.

Ren called out.

「What's wrong Julio?」

「.....Aa, sorry. Actually I found out several grounds for concern.」



.

The principal residence of Blandelli House that they visited after so long.

They moved to the spacious living room of the large mansion and sat down on the sofa. They waited for the melancholic looking master of the house to open his mouth—.

「I found out just before going to pick up you guys.」

Julio suddenly started talking.

「Aisha-sama.....the former sleeping beauty-dono left behind a letter in her room. 『Thank you for everything. I've made up my mind so I'm going on a journey』 is written there.」

「Aisha-san is already gone!?!」

After that duel, Aisha was staying in Blandelli mansion.

To think that their parting would be this abrupt. Ren was surprised. Then Julio spoke further.

「And then, this happened this morning but..... When I rummaged through the old documents of Campiones association, a data that cannot be ignored showed up. It's a data about the space distortion phenomenon.」

「That sounds a bit interesting.」

Riona commented with interest.

「Thinking back, in the first place it's the case of 『space distortion appearing frequently』 that was worrying us. Well, perhaps the appearance number of distortion point will decrease now that Athena's maneuver is stopped—」

「That. Somehow we felt like we had reached the happy end but」

Julio spoke with a gloomy tone.

「The end of the world by Athena and the frequency of space distortion, whether there is causal relationship between them or not—. I thought that there is a need to consider it once more, and I found it right after that. A data that mentioned 『Perhaps the main cause that called space distortions to the world is none other than godslayer Madam Aisha』 .....」

「Eh?」

Ren was dumbfounded. The intelligent young noble shrugged.

「《Madam Aisha》 who lived in the same era with my Campione ancestor Caesar was once an owner of authority to travel through time and space. But, that authority started to rampage due to a certain situation and it caused space distortions to occur everywhere throughout the diverse worlds.」

Julio looked really gloomy even while talking in monotone.

「That's why, the space distortion is a passage that connect the real world with mythological world created by Madam Aisha's authority. It mostly won't appear while she is sleeping quietly. But, when that sleep is getting lighter, the distortions will be generated in higher frequency—」

「That, was written in the things that Julio found?」

「Yeah.」

「I sometimes saw a glimpse of a villain from her but, if that was the reason she got sealed then it explained various things.....」

Riona was impressed. Here Cassandra came to Ren's side.

「Err Ren-sama, about that.....」

The cursed prophet of Troy was whispering into his ear.

The surprising content made even Ren speechless as expected. He spontaneously stared at Cassandra. She too was also smiling with a troubled face.

「.....It seems just now Cassandra got a premonition.」

For now he should report it. Ren spoke.

「Looks like a space distortion will soon appear in this world somewhere and Aisha-san will enter it cheerfully.」

「Le, let's prevent it somehow!」

Riona yelled.

「We have to restrain that person and check all the facts!」

「Right. Depending on the situation we should also consider sealing her again.」

Julio also agreed seriously. A new voice interrupted at that time.

「.....I wonder about that? She isn't someone who you can find because you're looking for her. I think that preparing yourself for the worst and giving this up as the irrationality of this world is also a valid choice.」

It was the voice of a young man. However it didn't come from Ren or Julio.

Without anyone noticing there was an Asian youth at the corner of the living room slipping in. He was leaning on the wall while toying with a smartphone in one hand.

He looked like he was in the later teenage or early twenty.

His voice was cute for an adult male. His height also wasn't that high. His look was that of a handsome man with nothing to criticize. He was slim.

However—the look of his eyes was very headstrong and eccentric.

Even now his eyes didn't separate from the smartphone and focused on the screen. ....But, when he noticed Ren's gaze he put his smartphone into the pocket of the hoodie he was wearing.

He immediately came to near Ren and kneeled.

While his attire was casual with black hoodie, jeans, and sneaker, he kneeled on one knee like a knight swearing loyalty and spoke respectfully.

「My name is Lu. It's a honor to make your acquaintances. It's my rule to not go against the godslayers, so please feel free to tell me anything if you have a business. However——」

The young man Lu smoothly added.

「I won't obey any order that go against the will of my master Lu Cuilian.」

「Eh? You are a disciple of Luo Hao-oneesan!?!」

Ren was surprised. Young man Lu who seemed to be Chinese nodded and looked at Riona.

「Yes. I'm in the same circumstance with the girl over there. Today I come to visit is also because of master's instruction. ....That's how it is, best regard junior female disciple shao shimei.」

「I, I never heard that there is a senior disciple!?!」

「Idiot. There is no way that master will just talk about everything indiscreetly. Well, you aren't the only one who is a prodigy like phoenix among human.」

Young man Lu talked to the dumbfounded Riona with a condescending gaze.

This youth who was likening himself to a phoenix was certainly clad in an aura of an extraordinary person.

His body possessed sharpness that was only possessed by a human who had trained in dance or martial art to the extreme. Extraordinary quality could

be slightly seen from his movement and muscle. He had that kind of something.

「Excuse me, I—」

Cassandra talked to young man Lu who was still kneeling.

「I have met with Lu-sama previously!」

「Aa, that's right. It was at the observation post of space distortion. You are the princess who was together with Apollo right? Well, it's good that you too have found a place to settle down.」

Young man Lu was really curt even toward a peerless beauty like Cassandra.

He quickly cut off the talk and finally stood up. He approached Riona and showed his smartphone that he took out from his pocket.

「There is a message from master for you. I'll play it now.」

「That anachronism honorable master is using smartphone!?!」

「There is no way that's the case. She even hated the very sight of steam engine saying that it's the symbol of mankind's depravity. I secretly recorded the verbal message that master told me to convey to you with my smartphone.」

「Uwaa」

It seemed that godslayer Lu Cuilian was intense like usual.

The recording began in front of Riona who was dispirited with her master's temperament. Even through the small speaker of the smartphone, the beautiful voice that reminded them of zither's sound didn't lose vividness at the slightest.

To sum up the content of that message,

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To Riona.

Don't slack off with your training no matter what. A single day of laziness will delay the perfection of your skill by three years. However sometimes playing in the fairyland or perhaps being smeared in the mire of worldliness (From here it was a long talk about the mentality for the sake of training oneself so it was omitted)——

Now then, it reminds me.

Recently I often heard about the rumor of Umayado no Ouji and Fumika.

There is news that Umayado-dono became an emperor at a certain place in a new continent and built an empire. It seems Fumika is serving him well as the priestess of the emperor.

There is also mention of something like the corpse of the dead getting resurrected in that country and changed into moving corpse.

I heard that the moving corpses at times would become soldier, at times laborer, doing everything they can to support the country as its foundation.

It looks like Fumika is also working hard——

.

「Wha, what the hell is thiiiiisss!?!」

Riona couldn't hold it in and yelled.

「Shoutoku Taishi and Fumika created an empire of corpses and reigned as emperor and priestess!? What kind of development is that!? In the first place, it is still several days since we parted from them you know!?!」

「Haha」

Young man Lu snickered seeing her junior.

「The flow of time between the real world and mythological world being completely different often happen. It isn't rare for several months to have passed there while it's only two or three days here.」

「No, I know that but still」

Riona seemed unable to accept it and tilted her head.

「My little sister isn't someone who can do that kind of outrageous conduct. In the first place she also doesn't have that much skill in magic—ah」

The eldest daughter of Toba house suddenly made a pensive look.

「Come to think of it, Fumika also experienced returning from the realm of the dead in Hyperborea.....」

「Aa, certainly. Then it's not strange at all if Fumika-chan also leveled up like me and Cassandra.」

Ren spoke seriously.

「Looks like it became really amazing at the other side there.」

「Yes, really..... I got the feeling that it will become bad if we don't postpone the matter of Aisha-san for a little bit and go to pick up Fumika and Shoutoku Taishi super quick.....」

「Yeah. I'll also come along.」

「But Ren-sama」

Cassandra timidly spoke.

「The authority of Goddess Nemesis is still unusable isn't it?」

「Yep. ....After all I really forced it when returning the world back to normal. I even said 『it's fine even if this is the last』 when fighting

Athena. It won't be strange at all even if it keep being not working like this forever.....」

「Or rather this is the recoil from that 『practically unrivaled state』 . Without a doubt.」

Riona pointed out.

The supreme fortune that was obtained from Aisha's authority.

If this was the recoil from the power that accomplished a great miracle of such degree, then there was even the possibility that Nemesis's authority would be unusable for his whole life.

Ren grumbled 「How troubling」 before easily saying.

「Well, it'll work out somehow. Let's hurry to Hyperborea.」

「As expected from you Rokuhara-san, you aren't that bothered..... I thought that you would feel slightly troubled about it.」

Ren winked at the exasperated Riona and gave a thumb up.

「I have a lot of reliable comrades after all. Stella, Julio, Cassandra—of course I'm also counting on you Riona.」

「Rather than depending on other people, please wake up the authority that you should have usurped from Athena quickly.」

Ren and his partner nodded at each other even while making small talk.

A new journey, an adventurer that they couldn't see what was lying ahead was starting with an unexpected speed. Their next destination was the hero world Hyperborea once more.

There ancient gods and fellow godslayers starting from Lu Cuilian were waiting—.



# Afterword

.

Everyone, long time no see.

Shiniki no Campiones finally reach volume 5. And then, it is the apocalypse arc that can be said as the climax of the story.

In addition, I'm enthusiastically intending to have spoilery talk in the afterword this time.

I recommend those who still haven't finished this volume to withdraw from this afterword. Even then I ask that only those who wish to know the spoiler to read ahead.

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Now then.

The tale of Rokuhara Ren and friends with the theme of journey and mythology.

Starting from Greek mythology, Norse & Japan mythology, coming to other world of only sea, and then at the end it became the arrival of great flood + great destruction.

.....Eh?

The title of volume 5 is completely misleading?

Nn, well, "that thing" that Julio and Cassandra solved that corresponded to the name.

So that it's harder to foresee its true identity, I considered trying to put in an emphasized power word.....

If everyone was safely deceived then that means my strategy is a success.

And then this time I managed to mostly narrate the clues and knowledge for solving various puzzles throughout the story.

And so this time I omitted the customary web glossary that talked about pointless knowledge.

.....No, it'll also be nice to talk for long about 『the frequency of world reformation phenomenon in Marvel comic as well as concrete example of it』 that was slightly mention at the middle of this volume, for example Age of Apocalypse or House of M, or crossover work like Secret Wars, etc, but as expected it will be too redundant I think. (wry smile)

Also, come to think of it.

The movie Avengers End Game came while I was in the middle of writing volume 5.

I went to see it and got shocked. A content that I casually wrote for Marvel chitchat unexpectedly became a spoiler that guessed the movie's plot twist right, so I hurriedly revised it in panic.

The hidden theme of this series is multiverse.

That was to say multiple universes where countless worlds overlapped.

This is actually a theme that Marvel comic has taken a serious view of since the past. When I was thinking that perhaps it will also become a material for movie someday, it already happen in Spider Verse and on top of that it seems that it will also be related to the development in the series after End Game—oops, another useless talk from me.

(By the way this year, 2019. Marvel comic will hold a big event of total war between the dark elf army that captured Asgard the birthplace of lightning god Thor against the heroes. A part of the heroes also teleported to that

world over there. I thought that it's interesting how it's somehow similar with this series lol)

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Putting that aside, Shiniki no Campiones.

This time the problem that had been since first volume was taken care of.

Originally the series should be concluded with this—but. But. But. But.

Ee, just like you readers who had read until the end, the tale hasn't finished at all.....

Yes.

Our battle has ended but, the journey is still continuing.

.

Next it will be a tale of encounter with travelers who went around the diverse universes and a tale of singularity.

In a sense, it will be the real climax from here.....

The stage will be in hero world Hyperborea once more.

Just like hinted at audio drama of volume 4 special version, the godslayers who has showed up until now and the godslayers who hasn't showed up, and in addition even the ancient gods and heroes will be jumbled together and become the outbreak of a new mayhem.

Rokuhara Ren whose authority of Goddess Nemesis is not working.

Toba Riona whose love comedy power had gone up and even had a handsome senior appeared.

Cassandra who woke up to a new power. She should be able to check the “aftermath” of familiar character.

About Julio, perhaps he would encounter the ancestor who only had his name appearing until now.

Of course Shoutoku Taishi aka Umayado no Ouji and Fumika too—.

Just what in the world the two had done? First I intended to depict about many things with that as the center.

In addition the characters from previous series Campione! will also join the battle in full-scale.

Marquis-sama, sect founder, and miss nuisance has already appeared.

And then, the nostalgic previous main character and others.

I'm carefully considering of how to make their entrance. I'm planning a drama that is different from Shiniki~ until now.

.

By the way presently I'm in the middle of considering the title.

Making it Shiniki no Campiones 6 frankly will be valid but, the stage will be completely changed after this,

XX no Campiones

I'm thinking that it will also be nice to insert a new world.

Or perhaps because the Campione will increase with the godslayer of previous series so how about,

CampioneXX!

Something like that. I'm thinking of various things.

The schedule won't reach "coming soon" in three or four months but, I'm advancing the preparation so that the book can be published eventually.

I hope you readers can check it when it's published.

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In any case, Shiniki no Campiones. Thank you very much for following it until here.

If you don't mind, let's meet again somewhere.

# Credits

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